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Inter-Arab Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat, Syria's al-Shar' Hold News Conference

JN2104173493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The foreign ministers of the Arab states directly engaged in the peace process held a news conference in Damascus this afternoon. It was attended by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' opened the news conference by reading the closing statement of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting. [passage omitted]

After al-Shar' read the statement, Yasir 'Arafat said the concluding statement does not speak on behalf of a single Arab party in particular but in the name of all the Arab parties involved in the peace process. He added that the Palestinian delegation will be side by side with and under the wing of its brother Arabs.

Asked what pledges the United States took upon itself to unlock the peace process, Faruq al-Shar' said: The United States has made pledges and given assurances to the Arab interlocutors. In light of the pledges and assurances contained in the closing statement, the Arab delegations decided to resume the next round of peace talks on 27 April. Asked about U.S. pledges on the deportees, al-Shar' said: The ninth round was postponed primarily over the Palestinian deportee issue, and the matter was thrashed out by the Arab partners as they sought to surmount the hurdles erected by Israel. In our closing statement, as well as in all our contacts with the cosponsors, we underlined the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799, calling for the repatriation of all Palestinian deportees, al-Shar' said.

Yasir 'Arafat was asked whether Palestinian reservations have been removed or merely put on hold. The answer to this question can be found in the closing statement, he said. Asked if all the members of the Palestinian delegation will report to the talks, 'Arafat said: The Palestinian delegation has only one head and that is the PLO, and it will be up to it to decide.

Taking up this point, al-Shar' commented: This is a decision for the Palestinians to make.

Asked about a rumored split within the Palestinian camp, 'Arafat said: It is strange that an exercise in Palestinian democracy should be perceived as a split; we go by the majority opinion, and the minority goes along with the majority.

The foreign minister was asked about the U.S. pledges and assurances to propel the talks forward and keep them from reaching a critical crossroads. He said: Certainly you are aware that right from the beginning of the Madrid Conference, Israel has been placing obstacle after obstacle by building new settlements or stepping up repression in the occupied Arab territories, not to mention the deportations, the last involving more than 400 Palestinians. Last, but perhaps not least, the closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and laying siege to the Palestinian people. Such impediments as these are hardly conducive to the right atmosphere for a successful peace process. If this not were the case, our meeting in Damascus would not have dragged on for so many days. The peace process, then, is at a critical crossroads and must be weighed carefully and intently.

Out of our concern as the Arab interlocutors in the peace process, al-Shar' added, we will resume the talks after we requested a brief postponement based on our convictions that the conference cosponsors, especially the United States, are only too aware of the deep anxiety felt throughout the region and not just by the four Arab partners immediately concerned with the peace process. This concern was translated in opening up a new opportunity that must be reciprocated if the talks are to be conducted in auspicious and positive circumstances and if the peace process is not to unravel once and for all.

Asked about how much credence can be placed in U.S. pledges in light of past experiences, 'Arafat said: More than anything else, I am interested in the Arab position; we are expecting charity neither from the United States nor from the Israeli enemy. It was not a coincidence that Israel should shell southern Lebanon for five hours as its answer to the five hours of talks the Palestinian delegation held with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in Latakia over Arab affairs and means to give momentum to the peace process. It must be clear that we are entitled to expect from the conference cosponsors, Russia and the United States—regardless of the respective influence of the two—a commitment, since we have letters of assurances from both parties and a letter of invitation corroborating my argument, built into President Bush's initiative that envisages an exchange of land for peace, the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, as well as provisions for the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people and security for all parties in the region.

'Arafat added: The cosponsors of the conference are supposed to issue a written pledge. Yesterday in Amman, we received a message from the Russian sponsor in which Russia underscores its commitment to these outlines. As is known, there is a renewed U.S. commitment which will be announced after this conference. You will follow up on what will be announced by the official U.S. spokesperson. There is the issue of rights between ourselves and Israel. No rights can be lost if their owner endeavors to achieve his rights. We are concerned with taking all our rights.

With regard to U.S. clarifications to repatriate the Palestinian deportees, 'Arafat said: I do not want to predict events. We are at a very critical point. This news

conference, during which we announced a unified Arab position, will be followed by an official U.S. statement binding the United States.

Regarding the role of Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and the Palestinian delegation, 'Arafat said: The Palestinian delegation will remain as it is; it will not change. Somebody will lead the bilateral delegation; somebody will lead the Palestinian delegation to the multilateral talks; and somebody will lead the negotiating team.

Commenting on the meeting he held with President Hafiz al-Asad, 'Arafat said: I proudly say that this fraternal and cordial meeting, as well as the time given by my brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, were a good and fruitful contribution by his excellency, not only toward the peace process, as I said, but also toward strengthening the Arab position, Arab solidarity, and the unity of the Arab position. He contributed positively to give momentum to this process which, in turn, yielded these results. I thank him in my own name and on behalf of the Palestinian delegation, on behalf of my brothers in the Arab delegations here, and on behalf of the Arab nation. I say to him: Thank you.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: What renders the peace process a success is the united Arab position and the pledges and assurances made by the cosponsors of the peace process, particularly the United States. In his statement, al-Shar' said that these assurances and pledges were made by the United States in messages and the letters of invitations to all Arab parties involved in the peace process.

Al-Shar' added: Our steadfast Arab position and our people's steadfastness in every place in the Arab homeland are the best guarantee for rendering the peace process a success and for achieving its objective; namely, the liberation of land and the restoration of rights.

Asked about the contents of the expected U.S. position, 'Arafat said: First, the illegitimacy and illegality of the deportation carried out by Israel; and the second stand is a U.S. commitment to the role of a full partner in the peace talks. The point of reference in these talks will be what was previously announced in the letter of assurances and letter of invitation; namely, land in exchange for peace, and the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. This means withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory, particularly Jerusalem; and peace for everybody in the region. Furthermore, there are measures still to be announced.

Faysal al-Husayni said in a statement that he believes the basic guarantee is neither in the papers nor the speeches. However, he added, there is U.S. interest in achieving real progress in the peace process at this stage. He said: We feel that there is a U.S. interest in achieving progress. We should do our utmost to achieve the maximum results.

Asked about the expected practical steps that should be taken by Washington and Tel Aviv, al-Husayni said: The U.S. letter of guarantees and assurances, which we received, affirms that it has a clear and specific stand concerning the issue of deportations and deportees. We will talk about the deportation issue as a whole.

Al-Husayni said: We want to find a solution to the issue of the deportees and deportations as a whole, not only to groups of deportees. We want the United States to play the role of a full partner in the talks. This large-scale role can operate within the framework of the bases and rules of the points of reference for these talks.

Answering another question, al-Husayni said: The entire Palestinian delegation will head for Washington. In my capacity as chairman of the Palestinian negotiating team, I can attend the bilateral and multilateral talks, but the heads of delegations will remain in their posts.

Regarding his assessment of the statement issued in Damascus today, Faysal al-Husayni said: I believe that the statement is enlightened and important and depicts the real situation. I also believe that announcing it in Damascus at this stage, in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat, is a sign of a new atmosphere which we seek in helping achieve a better Arab future.

'Arafat Departs Damascus Following Talks

JN2104182193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Damascus this afternoon. He was seen off by [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the director of the PLO office in Damascus.

Arab League Statement on Lifting Sanctions on Libya

LD2004121293 Tripoli JANA in English 0852 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 20, JAMAHIRAYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Arab League Council expressed its deep concern at the human and material losses inflicted on the Arab Libyan people through the sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahariyah.

In a resolution issued yesterday at the end of the 99th ordinary session, the council demanded the lifting of the sanctions, reconfirmed its solidarity with the Great Jamahariyah and expressed its full appreciation for the initiatives taken by the Great Jamahariyah to settle the crisis with the Western countries.

In its statement the Arab League Council expressed its appreciation for the efforts exerted by the seven member committee and the secretary general of the Arab [as received], towards finding a peaceful solution to the crisis.

The council reasserted its past resolutions concerning solidarity with the Great Jamahariyah in its confrontation of the threats it is facing and supported the endeavours towards achieving a settlement within the pattern of respect for Libyan national sovereignty and the principles of international law.

The council called on the United States of America, Britain and France to respond to the Libyan initiatives that call for dialogue and negotiation to arrive at a solution to the crisis in accordance with Article 33 of Chapter Six of the United Nations Charter.

The council also called on the seven member committee and the secretary general of the Arab League to go on exerting further efforts and contacts towards finding a peaceful solution.

At the end of its statement the council called on the secretary general of the United Nations to exert greater efforts towards achieving a peaceful settlement to ensure the lifting of sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahariyah, whose negative repercussions are reflected on the Libyan people and the Arab states.

Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to Agreement To Join Peace Talks Reported

Groups Reject Decision

NC2104180593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] The Nayif Hawatimah-led Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has issued a statement in Damascus describing the Palestinian decision to resume the peace talks as illegal.

The deportees have accused the PLO of selling out their cause for a handful of dollars offered by Arab states.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas has said the PLO has committed a grave mistake by agreeing to resume the talks. It added that the PLO will find itself isolated for bypassing of the will of the Palestinian people.

Hamas called on the Palestinian negotiating delegation not to go to Washington and to return to their occupied territories.

'Ashrawi Comments on Decision

JN2104171993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Amman, by Sa'id Mu'addi in Jerusalem on 21 April—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, currently in Amman, good evening.

['Ashrawi] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, following intensive consultations and contacts, it was announced in Damascus today that all Arab parties and the Palestinians will take part in the upcoming round of negotiations. What has changed the position of the Palestinian side into agreeing to participate in the next round?

['Ashrawi] As you know, intensive consultations and continuous talks and contacts were held with all Arab parties to the bilateral and other negotiations, as well as with the cosponsors. Inter- Palestinian contacts and difficult and exhausting talks were also held. In my opinion, this has been one of the most difficult Palestinian decisions made during the current phase. The Palestinian leadership made this decision, even though the Palestinian delegation and Palestinian public opinion have been deeply skeptical, dissatisfied, and distrustful of the intentions of the sponsor state and Israel. However, after exhaustive and comprehensive consideration of all the facts and circumstances, the leadership decided to give the peace process a final chance, as a test of these intentions and to provide an opportunity for the implementation of the promises that have been given to us.

[Mu'addi] Has the Palestinian side been given new assurances or pledges from the U.S. Administration with respect to the points that were raised and which prevented Palestinian participation on 20 April?

['Ashrawi] We have received promises. We have said that promises are not enough; we want specific and tangible issues. There have been some developments. However, we were not confident that such developments would be sufficient. Besides, we are not fully confident that Israel will abide by the points of reference, despite the promises and assurances that have been communicated to us by the Americans. They explained to us that Israel will take stands that are in line with and committed to the basis of the talks and the points of reference without attempting to impose its opinions, views, and analyses. Now, we want to test these promises, and we want Israel and the United States to abide by the steps that we have been told will be taken. Of course, there are indications concerning the participation of Faysal al-Husayni from Jerusalem, as well as positive signs with respect to several negotiating points, the return of persons deported since 1967, and an Israeli commitment to not resort to deportations in the future. As we said, such promises were insufficient, since otherwise the decision would not have been so difficult.

[Mu'addi] Several members of the Palestinian delegation are opposed to participation, particularly Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, and delegation member Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat. Have these differences been settled and will they take part in the next round of negotiations?

['Ashrawi] Like any state and people, we have various opinions and the freedom of expression and analysis are guaranteed for any person, individual, or group. The sessions were frank, clear, and responsible. All stands were reviewed in a realistic and candid manner. Indeed, this is something of which we can be proud. Decisions have been made in a democratic manner. All views have been listened to, and all stands and views were expressly explained. The delegation, which still has substantial doubts about this issue, has recommended postponement of participation, not withdrawal. However, in a constant attempt to change circumstances, and having studied all the facts, the Palestinian leadership, which is the only party authorized to make the decision, made this decision. We respect this decision, given that it has been made by our sole, legitimate leadership. We will implement it through all available means and in the best way possible.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, thank you very much.

['Ashrawi] Not at all. You are welcome.

'Abd-al-Shafi 'Surprised' by Decision

JN2104193693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] In Amman, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks; and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, have asserted that the Palestinian delegation will participate in the ninth round of talks, in compliance with the unified Arab decision and the unified Arab position.

In an interview with our political affairs correspondent, they also affirmed that the delegation would abide by the principled Palestinian position.

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Shafi] Today's decision to participate [in the peace talks] surprised us because it did not take our recommendations into account. We understand that the decision took into account the importance of the unified Arab position, and we know that our Arab brothers have their own concepts and situations and believe in the importance of continuing the negotiations. We respect the unified Arab position. Second, we were also eager, from the beginning, to see a unified Palestinian position, as there was an objection to the peace process. In light of the current situation, there are several Palestinian ideas and trends regarding the return to the negotiating table. Despite our clear-cut, firm position that we cannot go to the negotiating table without total conviction that we can achieve something, we, in light of the decision we heard about today, will abide by it out of our respect for the unified Arab position and our eagerness to see unified Palestinian ranks. Here, I would like to appeal to our Palestinian brothers everywhere to understand the position—our position at this critical and decisive moment. We will go [to the negotiations] in respect of these considerations, but we will not relinquish our principled position, which stresses the need for Israel to comply with international legitimacy and the points of reference for the peace process. While we decide to go to the ninth round, we hope that the U.S. sponsor's promise that it will play an effective role and that Israel is ready to make certain concessions when we decide to go to the negotiating table, will surface before the resumption of the ninth round.

['Ashrawi] This, in fact, is one of the decisions the Palestinian people, the Palestinian leadership, and the Palestinian delegation have found hardest to stomach. It was not easy for the leadership to adopt such a decision. Nor was it easy for the delegation to accept this decision under these poor and difficult circumstances. Still, there is a principled position and adherence to unified Palestinian ranks, Arab coordination, and the unified Arab position. There is also an historic commitment to pursuing every path to regain Palestinian rights and to pursue these promises, even as a test of the extent of compliance of the sponsor state and Israel, and also of the Arab countries' commitments to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause. [end recording]

Two Delegates Withdraw in Protest

JN2104195593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Palestinian spokeswoman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi has said that practical steps would be taken this week following the announcement in Damascus that the Arab parties have agreed to participate in the ninth round of bilateral talks. In a statement to journalists, 'Ashrawi expressed hope that the U.S. Administration will issue an official announcement underscoring the points of reference for the talks and enforcing them on all parties. She also expressed hope that the United States will shoulder its responsibilities and force Israel to end its practices in the occupied territory.

Regarding the Palestinian delegation's decision to participate in the peace talks, 'Ashrawi said that the majority of the delegation agreed on the participation. However, she noted that one of the members asked that his party's participation in the ninth round be suspended in light of its position.

Palestinian delegate Ghassan al-Khatib, who is affiliated with the Palestinian People's Party, said that his party decided to suspend the participation of its members in the delegation—Samir 'Abdallah and al-Khatib.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said that the PLO leadership has committed a big mistake and will be forced to go back on its stand in view of the pressure that will be exerted by the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territory. This came in a statement by the official Hamas spokesman, Ibrahim Ghawshah.

Conflict Discussed

LD2204034893 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Brothers, the Damascus, Cairo, and Amman meetings, at their various levels, have stressed that any separate solutions between one or more of the concerned Arab countries, on one side, and Israel on the other, will not happen at this critical juncture and that the general official Arab intention is to continue the serious efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement on all Arab fronts—including the Palestinian one—which have been (?facilitated) in accordance with the Madrid formula and throughout the negotiating rounds in Washington.

Counter to that, a disagreement has appeared concerning the issue of Arab and Palestinian participation in the ninth round. The pressures have accumulated on our Palestinian side to accept the predetermined date for this round, in accordance with the American- Israeli desire for that date. Yet, all these pressures, with their various types, have not penetrated the authenticity and strength of our demand for a decidedly fairer American stand, which is more responsive with the reasonable degree of Washington's role as a full partner in the negotiations, and not as a partner of Israel alone, as one member of the negotiating delegation put it.

Therefore, the issuing of the latest Arab decision from Damascus itself on an abiding agreement concerning the new date of the ninth round and the possible Arab Palestinian participation in it, is a consecration of the Palestinian spirit within the peace process. As long as there will not be any separate settlements between any Arab country on its own and Israel, it is expected that this Arab decision constitutes a commitment on the part of all concerned Arab and Palestinian parties because of the particular stand it contains.

What we hope for is that this decision is, with its content and objectives, a guarantee consecrating our demands and rights on the path of the unified Arab will.

'Abd-al-Shafi Comments Further

NC2204073093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, in Amman, by Fawzi al-Jundi in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome as a guest on Voice of the Arabs.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Welcome to you.

[Al-Jundi] Let's start with the return of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiating table. Will you tell us about the form of Palestinian participation in the ninth round of the peace talks?

['Abd-al-Shafi] First of all, I would like to comment on the participation decision. I am talking as chairman of the negotiating delegation. Since the end of the eighth round, and after Israel decided to deport a large number of Palestinians, our decision has been not to return to the negotiations unless Israel implements UN Security Council Resolution 799 and reverses its refusal to comply with the basics of peace as represented in Resolution 242. As a negotiating delegation, our recommendation to our legitimate leadership was not to go to the talks until we were convinced we could achieve something. Therefore, our leadership's decision to take part in the talks surprised us, because it was counter to our recommendations. We know that the consideration that led the leadership to participate was a wish to maintain the unity of the Arab stand. We respect that principle and want to maintain a truly united Arab stand. However, I would like to emphasize here that Israel and America have still not responded to the Palestinian conditions to return to the talks. The delegation has decided to respond to the leadership's decision. I can say that we responded reluctantly to that decision. Our acceptance must be regarded as a test of what America will announce as a sponsor of the negotiations, as well as of what we heard about Israel's willingness to make real concessions. We will maintain our firm stand on our established rights. We hope there will be responsiveness. Otherwise, we will have to decide not to continue negotiating until Israel responds to our demands.

[Al-Jundi] Do you not believe that the ball is now in the Israeli court?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The ball is indeed in the American-Israeli court. I heard of a U.S. announcement which, I believe, was generalized, although there are signs of progress in the U.S. stand. But this progress falls short of what we want.

[Al-Jundi] What do you want exactly?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We request that the American side force Israel to respect the basis of peace, Resolution 242.

[Al-Jundi] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' read out the final statement of the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers concerned with the peace process. He noted that the Arab agreement to take part in negotiations was prompted by the Arab side's eagerness to create a new opportunity for a just and comprehensive peace. This opportunity is represented in negotiations as an inevitable option and as a suitable framework to establish peace and stability.

['Abd-al-Shafi] The stand we have maintained since Israel made the deportation decision is a principled one. However, it does not mean that we renounce the principle of peace included in the Palestinian peace initiative of November 1988. I hope the Arab statement in Damascus will be met with real Israeli responsiveness. We are waiting to see what happens. If Israel does not respond, we will suspend negotiations until our demands are met and until the negotiating process gains true credibility.

[Al-Jundi] Then you are waiting for what Israel and the United States will announce before the ninth round of talks resume on 27 April?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Naturally.

[Al-Jundi] If Israel does not announce the return of a limited number of deportees and announces that it will not resort to deportation in the future, will this be sufficient for you? [sentence as heard]

['Abd-al-Shafi] What we want from Israel is to undertake not to resort to deportation again and to return the deportees soon. We hope all the deportees will return to their homes by June at the latest.

[Al-Jundi] Will you agree to discuss the issue of the Palestinian deportees at the negotiating table during the ninth round?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No. We believe that Resolution 799 is sufficient and that Israel must comply with it. We will not bargain on Resolution 799.

[Al-Jundi] Does this mean that you will not negotiate this resolution?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We will absolutely not discuss it. Israel has to comply with the resolution.

[Al-Jundi] Even if the ninth round begins before an Israeli decision to return the deportees?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Even if the ninth round starts.

[Al-Jundi] The United States has promised to play the role of a full partner. How do you view this role?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We do not know exactly what Washington means. This is a generalized announcement. We have always said that we could not go to talks on the basis of general ideas.

[Al-Jundi] You held talks with State Department officials. Did you not get a specific explanation of that announcement?

['Abd-al-Shafi] There have been no exact or specific concepts.

[Al-Jundi] We thank you, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

Hawatimah Critical of Peace Team

JN2204062893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22-23 Apr 93 pp 1,5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—A prominent Palestinian leader has strongly criticised the Palestinian decision to participate in the ninth round of the bilateral peace talks with Israel and predicted that it would deepen divisions inside the Palestinian camp and reflect negatively on the course of the five-year-old intifada inside the occupied territories.

"The Palestinian decision to go back to Washington was actually taken as far back as Sunday at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) when the majority of members were absent," said Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

"That decision was immediately conveyed to the U.S. administration and the Egyptian government," he added.

"What happened afterwards was all window-dressing for the decision, with most efforts (by the PLO leadership) concentrated on convincing members of the Palestinian delegation to participate in the coming around," he said.

Mr. Hawatimah, whose group is the third largest inside the PLO umbrella and who has been critical of the conditions under which the Palestinians participated in the peace process, contended that the whole Palestinian people oppose resumption of the talks under the current circumstances. "We are demanding an end to Palestinian participation (in the talks) so that our national and the PLO's unity can be preserved and the Palestinians can have better terms for negotiations in accordance with U.N. resolutions," he said.

"The subject of Jerusalem should also be included on the agenda in the new conditions."

Mr. Hawatimah, who was speaking in an interview with the JORDAN TIMES and its sister Arabic daily AL-RA'Y upon arrival in Amman for a visit, quoted Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, as saying recently that the majority of the Palestinian people demanded withdrawal from the negotiations, if the deportations issue is not solved and conditions are improved for continued participation.

To back his views, the DFLP leader said that the people of Gaza recently staged a sit-in at Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi's home while the Arab people of Jerusalem and Jericho staged similar sit-ins at the homes of Faysal al-Husayni, head of the delegation's steering committee, and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a delegation member, demanding withdrawal from the talks.

The Palestinian people Mr. Hawatimah said, have been demanding that the Palestinian delegation boycott the talks until resolution 799 concerning the 400 expellees has been implemented, that settlement programmes be halted and the state of siege and repressive measures against the people under occupation end.

"If the Israelis refuse to repatriate the 400 Palestinians in implementation of Resolution 799, how would they react to demands for their withdrawal from occupied Palestinian lands as well occupied Jordanian, Lebanese and Syrian territories, and dismantle Jewish settlements," Mr. Hawatimah asked.

Predicting a total failure of the ninth round, he said that the Palestinian masses are expected to stage nationwide strikes on April 27 to support their demand for a halt to the negotiations.

"The participants in the April 27 talks will discover that they are reaping a bitter harvest because they have ignored the opinion of their masses" Mr. Hawatimah said, adding that there was an urgent need for a referendum among the Palestinians inside the occupied territories and in the diaspora about the course of the negotiations.

Referring to the DFLP, Hawatimah said that since 1973 the front had been demanding balanced political solutions and negotiations based on the international legitimacy.

Al-Husayni Warned Not To Attend Talks

NC2204104393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1023 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Paris, 22 Apr (MENA)—The Paris-based Radio l'Orient reported in its daily program "What the Papers Did Not Report" that Palestinian elements opposed to the peace negotiations have visited the homes of Faysal al-Husayni in Jerusalem and Sa'ib 'Urayqat in Jericho and left a stern warning against taking part in the peace talks.

The radio added that the warning, which took the form of a threat, was conveyed to al-Husayni and 'Urayqat while they were abroad.

Fatah Warns Against Attacks on Negotiators

TA2104172093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] In a special statement distributed in the territories today, Fatah issued a warning to any person or party that takes exception to members of the Palestinian delegation through means other than democratic expression. The statement explained that any attack against any person from the negotiating team, his property, or members of his family will be considered an attack against Fatah. The most severe punishment will be meted out on the perpetrator and the party to which he is affiliated, whatever it may be. The statement affirmed Fatah's responsibility for protecting the PLO's decision, including protection of members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation as executors of the Palestinian decision, adopted in the Palestinian people's institutions.

Source Hails 'Gains' Over Talks

PM2204093093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

['Ali al-Salih report: "Palestinian Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Washington To Resume Dialogue With PLO After Arab Participation in Negotiations"]

[Excerpt] London, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A well-informed Palestinian source has emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Palestinian delegation and the other negotiating Arab delegations will head for Washington this week to participate in the ninth round of negotiations, which will begin 27 April.

The source said that the Palestinians have made immediate gains and obtained promises of further gains when negotiations begin. One of these gains is U.S. resumption of contacts with the PLO not later than June.

The source, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the U.S. Administration put pressure on Israel to get it to agree to a change in the nature of the Palestinian delegation to include sons of Jerusalem—a clear indication from it that the Jerusalem issue is raised at the negotiating table and not excluded as Israel wants.

As for the deportees issue, the source emphasized that Israel's verbal pledge to the U.S. Administration not to resort to deportation in the future is now fixed, and that a larger number than the 101 whom Israel agreed to return will be returned to the occupied territories. Israel also agreed to reduce the deportation period so as not to go beyond September. [passage omitted]

Abu-Zayyad: 'Real Achievements' Needed

TA2204105993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, an adviser to the Palestinian peace team, says that developments in the opening days of the talks next week will be crucial for the Palestinians, who need real achievements to win over public opinion in the territories. Abu-Zayyad was speaking to reporter Mark Weiss, who asked him what had prompted the Palestinians to finally decide to resume participation.

[Begin recording] [Abu-Zayyad] Well, I think we finally wanted to show our good intentions and our readiness to give another chance to the peace process to prove itself.

[Weiss] It is no secret, of course, that there has been serious opposition within the territories to Palestinian participation. What do you think will happen now? Do you think that opposition will grow?

[Abu-Zayyad] Well, the opposition is there, and the achievements of the peace process within the very near future will decide whether this opposition will be able to put an end to the peace process or this opposition will start to de-escalate and give a chance to more support for the peace process. We need to prove to our people that our decision to go back to the peace talks was not the wrong decision and that we are achieving something for them. Therefore, it is very crucial to see what will happen in the next few days or weeks.

[Weiss] The Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization has threatened to mobilize opposition in the territories to the participation and, of course, you know there have been a number of threats on members of the peace team. How worried are you about these threats and the Hamas opposition?

[Abu-Zayyad] Well, I hope that the opposition will use its democratic right to express itself in democratic means and ways, and I think it is the right of everyone to express himself and to say whether he is for or against, and I hope that this opposition will not be expressed by violent acts.

[Weiss] The decision by Dr. Hasan al-Khatib to withdraw from the talks—do you think this undermines yet further the backing in the territories for the peace negotiators?

[Abu-Zayyad] Well, I am sorry to hear that some of the members of the peace delegation are not going back. I hope that this will be a temporary decision, and I hope that soon they will be again in their places in the delegation doing what they had been doing during the last one and a half years or more. [end recording]

Boycott Threatened if Demands Not Met

NC2204112493 Paris AFP in English 1034 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Jerusalem, April 22 (AFP)—If Palestinian demands are not met during the ninth round of negotiations with Israel, they will boycott the Middle East peace process, a spokeswoman warned Thursday.

"This is the last chance," Hanan 'Ashrawi told AFP. "Either there will be a real substantive achievement or everything will fail."

The demands centre on a solution to Israel's deportation of 400 Palestinian Muslim fundamentalists on December 17 and improvement of the human rights situation in the occupied territories, sealed off for more than three weeks.

"We will not be responsible for the accumulation of mistakes and the non-commitment of Israel," the Palestinian spokeswoman said.

The Palestinians also insist the negotiations, set to reopen Tuesday in Washington, be based on United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 which detail the principle of land-for-peace.

Jibril Warns Negotiators

JN2204105993 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0934 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Responding to a question by al-Quds Radio reporter on his opinion about the Tunis [PLO] leadership's decision to attend the Washington negotiations next week, Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, said:

[Begin Jibril recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have repeatedly emphasized that the influential leadership in Tunis neither represents the Palestinian people nor expresses their aspirations. This leadership lost its revolutionary legitimacy to lead the Palestinian people after it relinquished the PLO Charter and recognized Resolution 242, which consecrates the Zionist presence on more than 85 percent of the land of Palestine. Our proof on the loss of this legitimacy is the withdrawal of all Palestinian organizations and their objection to and boycott of the recent meetings in Tunis and Amman. We also say that the 10 Palestinian factions [opposed to peace talks] are the ones which represent the conscience, will, and aspirations of the Palestinian people who refuse to sell Palestine or conclude the anticipated bargain of treason in Washington on the basis of the administrative self-government.

Within this context, we welcome the other Palestinian forces, such as the People's Party and others, which opposed and will oppose the continuation of negotiations. We view with disdain the stance of the U.S. Administration, which is trying by various ways and means to float the sinking Tunis leadership by presenting some crumbs and formalities so that the Palestinian side will continue to serve as a cover for gross mistakes. Therefore, we say with full clarity and frankness that we at this time in which all peoples aspire for democracy demand that a new leadership be chosen for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the diaspora through direct free elections so that this leadership will enjoy the legitimacy of leading the people. Very honestly speaking, I say that continuing to impose this leadership on the Palestinian people by the U.S. Administration will not help. The Palestinian people are no longer mere refugees one can dispose with as one desires. They are struggling people who are daily making heavy sacrifices for the sake of restoring their homeland. The others and the plotters will soon realize that this plot will not pass. Here, allow me to say that our people in the occupied territories and the diaspora will not hesitate to offer more sacrifices, show more defiance, and seek martyrdom. The road to freedom is always paved with blood and not political games as we see now. All of us will see what will soon happen in our occupied territory and what our people in the diaspora will do. I say that this plot will not pass regardless of the alliances supporting it. Our people will triumph and this plot will be foiled.

We on this occasion warn the negotiating Palestinian delegation, which will go to Washington, and cite the popular saying "one will reap only what his hands have sown." This is not a threat. Our people, who lost thousands and even tens of thousands of its sons, will not allow them to represent their will. So lose not heart, nor fall into despair; for ye must gain mastery if ye are true in Faith. [Koranic verse] This is our opinion about the decision recently taken by the cordon states' foreign ministers. Thank you. [end recording]

Fatah Revolutionary Council Denies Split in Ranks

JN2204061993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22-23 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The hardline Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) led by Abu-Nidal Wednesday denied that there was a split in its ranks in Baghdad. An FRC statement said since the Iraqi authorities closed the movement's offices and camps in Iraq in 1983, the movement did not have any "declared" presence in Iraq. The Iraqi authorities only allow an envoy from the movement to stay in Iraq to follow up matters related to "martyr's families." The group said news about an FRC split aims to "target the movement and fall within the context of organised campaigns against it by the Zionist-crusader forces and the leadership of the PLO's current Executive Committee."

Algeria

Tunisian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

LD2104215893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Algerian-Tunisian cooperation is in the forefront since yesterday with the visit to Algeria by the Tunisian foreign minister. Habib Ben Yahya this morning chaired the sixth session of the great Algerian-Tunisian joint commission. [passage omitted]

The Tunisian foreign minister was of course received this morning by the chairman of the High Council of State [HCS]. At the end of the audience, the Tunisian foreign minister said that he told President Ali Kafi about the appreciation by his government of the action undertaken by the Algerian authorities for the re-establishment of peace and security in order to build a strong state with a sound and democratic regime. Mr. Ben Yahya was also received by General-Major Khaled Nezzar, defense minister and member of the HCS.

Meets With Ali Kafi

LD2104221893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Mr Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council [HSC], received at the Presidency this morning Mr Habib Ben Yahya, the Tunisian foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting Mr Habib Ben Yahya made the following statement to TV: [Begin Ben Yahya recording] I enjoyed a fraternal reception from His Excellency Chairman Kafi who showed special care to strengthen relations between Algeria and sister Tunisia, consistent with the political will of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Chairman Ali Kafi. We analyzed in depth the issue of cooperation at the pan-Arab, national and regional levels between the two countries and also cooperation in the sectors of information and culture so that this cooperation consolidates the bonds of fraternity and neighborliness between Algeria and Tunisia. I had also the luck of receiving from Chairman Ali Kafi his enlightened thoughts and analysis of the situation in the region and the world. I will convey to his excellency the president these thoughts and advice. Also I conveyed to the chairman a message of appreciation for the serious action by the Algerian leadership in the current circumstances to establish security and peace in sisterly Algeria, so that Algeria becomes a strong state, a strong regime and with a real democratic approach. This is what we want for Algeria and the whole Arab Maghreb. [passage omitted] [end recording]

At the Defense Ministry, General Khaled Nezzar received this evening Mr Habib Ben Yahya. [passage omitted] Both sides reviewed matters of common interest and expressed satisfaction at the quality and level of relations between the two sister countries and their will and readiness to further develop these relations.

Kafi Sends Message to Arab League Secretary General

LD2104213993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council, has sent a message to the Arab League secretary general with the aim of strengthening common action. Algeria, the message says, will spare no effort to serve Arab interests and thus ensure security in the Arab world. The Arab League is meeting in Cairo at the level of justice ministers of member countries. Their meeting is devoted to the fight against religious extremism and terrorism, as well as to the protection of Arab women's rights.

Japanese Bank Grants Loan to Sonatrach Oil Concern

LD2104200993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] A $900 million loan will be granted by Japan's Eximbank to the state-owned Sonatrach oil company to restore Algeria's gas installations. The loan was announced by the general manager of Eximbank today in Algeria, and will be added to a loan worth $500 million signed last year.

Saboteurs Destroy Car Park, Trucks

LD2104213593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Terrorism also means acts of sabotage. The communal car park of Djebara, in the Daira district of Meftah in the wilaya of Blida, was burned down on Tuesday evening by five or six armed individuals. The attackers set the car park afire after neutralizing the guards. Five trucks were destroyed by the fire; two of them served as public transport vehicles and a third served to supply the isolated district with drinking water. The damage, according to sources close to the security of the wilaya, is estimated to be worth 6 million dinars.

Egypt

'Arafat Discusses Upcoming Peace Talks, Consultations

NC2104175693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian president, and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Cairo from Damascus tonight after attending the meeting of the five Arab states involved in the peace process.

Upon his arrival, the Palestinian president said President Husni Mubarak had exerted much-appreciated efforts during his tour of Europe, his meetings with U.S. President Clinton, and his extensive meetings in Cairo and other meetings at various levels. He added: These

contacts and efforts have borne the good fruits we are reaping today: the agreement by my brothers in the Arab states involved in the peace process to the proposal to send delegations to the upcoming round of negotiations under the conditions, concept, and approach announced in Damascus today, which was called the "Damascus Five-Party Statement."

President 'Arafat discussed what he expects from the talks in light of U.S. and Israeli promises to promote the peace march, saying: This is all we have. We hope to see, and we hope, that the United States will keep its promises. He added: At this very moment, the U.S. State Department is supposed to be making a statement in this regard. In the meantime, he added, we will see whether Israel complies with its promises or plays games, as it usually does with all international resolutions and with all our actions to establish a just and comprehensive peace in our region. 'Arafat added: When I say a just and comprehensive peace, Yitzhaq Rabin must understand that I mean peace, not surrender.

Asked if today's Arab decision to take part in the negotiations is a goodwill gesture, 'Arafat said: Yes. Today's statement in Damascus was made to show once again the Arabs' goodwill and to give peace and the conference's cosponsors—Russia and the United States—a chance. He added: I say to the United States, which wants to be a full partner in the negotiations, that it must remember that the Arabs are also full partners in the talks and that it must not be biased, it must not favor one party over the other. That would deprive it of its role as fair partner and cosponsor.

'Arafat was asked if the recent Palestinian consultations have cleared inter-Palestinian differences. He responded: We have a democracy in which we take pride. In our democracy, he added, the majority respects the opinion of the minority, which, in turn, complies with the view of the majority. Any faction or person has the right to express an opinion; however, in the end, the majority's views are binding.

Asked for his advice to the Palestinian delegation to the 27 April peace talks, 'Arafat said: My advice is that they follow the text of the invitation and compel the other side not to deviate from it, the letter of assurances, or the principle on which the peace initiative has been launched: land for peace, the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, withdrawal from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories including Jerusalem, recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and peace for all people in the region. He added: I say once again: Peace, not surrender.

'Arafat discussed his expected meeting with President Mubarak today, saying: As is the case with all our meetings, it will be a good and fruitful one.

Foreign Minister Musa said the statement issued by the five-party meeting pointed out that the Arabs sought a unified stand to attend the negotiations in light of the assurances and promises conveyed to the brother Palestinians and other parties. He mentioned the extensive contacts that have led to this positive decision and said he hopes this will give the talks some impetus and lead to progress toward a settlement based on land for peace and respect for Palestinian rights.

Musa said he hopes progress will be made during the upcoming round of talks and said the contacts held with the United States and the Israelis indicate that they are prepared to contribute to progress. We are closely watching and following the situation and acting in a manner that could preserve the Arab interests as well as peace and stability in the region, Musa said, added: We are not negotiators and are not required to take any position. The negotiators are Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinians. The important thing is for progress to be made at the negotiating table, he added. He added that the United States had said it would act as a full partner and play an active role. He added: We hope this fact will strengthen the Arab position and help reach a settlement. It is important that the negotiations progress and not move in a vicious circle. He added: We will always be ready to help, in the negotiations or in contacts, if necessary, and to offer our past experience and whatever we can do in the interest of the peace process and progress therein.

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC2104181693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held talks with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat at the presidential office this evening.

On the Egyptian side, the talks were attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. On the Palestinian side, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member; Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations; and Palestine ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, attended.

Foreign Minister Musa Comments

NC2104193593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Following President Husni Mubarak's talks with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the president's meeting with 'Arafat followed the latter's return from the Arab meetings that ended in Damascus today. He added that the two presidents discussed the results of the five Arab states' meeting to coordinate their stands and the decision of all the Arab parties to participate fully in the peace talks that will be resumed in Washington on 27 April.

Musa said Washington has welcomed and supported the step announced today and that U.S. officials are preparing a statement. He added that the statement will highlight the U.S. stand on the peace process, Palestinian rights, the principle of land for peace—which is the basis of the peace process—and Resolutions 242 and 338.

Musa added that positive developments are expected following the Arab and Palestinian decision to participate fully in the peace process. He said he hopes these developments will improve the atmosphere in the occupied territories and the climate for the peace process itself and the negotiations. He said President Mubarak will send an envoy to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to discuss with him a number of issues related to the peace process.

In reply to a question on the issues discussed by President Mubarak and 'Arafat today, Musa said: The issue of Palestinian and Arab participation is now solved and a decision to participate was issued. The date for the negotiations, 27 April, was also set. Today's discussions dealt with what will happen in the future. He added that these plans should deal with two points: First, the general atmosphere in the occupied territories; second, the negotiations themselves, where Egyptian efforts will start.

Foreign Minister Musa noted that the negotiations are expected to be difficult because they will be complicated after this hiatus and because there are some obstacles and shortcomings surrounding the general atmosphere of the negotiations. He also said Egypt is willing to help if asked and will do whenever necessary.

Al-Baz Leaves for Israel, Praises Palestinian Decision

NC2204055093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2101 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Cairo for Israel this evening for a one-day visit.

Prior to his departure, al-Baz said his visit to Israel aims to give momentum to the peace process, especially after the positive and farsighted Palestinian decision to participate in the ninth round of bilateral talks.

Al-Baz said the Palestinian participation in the coming round of peace talks will provide a great opportunity to achieve progress. He said during the visit he will hold talks with senior Israeli officials.

Wali, Israel's Sarid Discuss Peace, Cooperation

NC2104141993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, today received Israeli Environmental Protection Minister Yosi Sarid, who is visiting Cairo. Dr. Wali said that achieving peace in the region and guaranteeing its stability form the mainstay of promoting development efforts as part of constructive cooperation among the region's nations.

The Israeli minister said his government was elected and formed to achieve peace, noting that this is the government's main task. He added: We choose the peace that will guarantee Israel's security and normal relations with the region's states in return for withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Sarid Leaves Cairo

NC2204055293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2212 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—Israeli Environmental Protection Minister Yosi Sarid left Cairo for home today after a two-day visit. During his stay in Egypt, Sarid held talks with Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture; and Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, cabinet affairs minister and minister of state for administrative development. The talks dealt with aspects of cooperation between Egypt and Israel in the field of environment.

Sarid was seen off at the airport by Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd and the Israeli ambassador in Cairo.

Columnist Views Domestic Problems in Iran, Sudan

NC2104085193 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Apr 93 p 14

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Excerpts] Iran imagines that establishing an alliance with Sudan will help it to realize its objectives, which are based on imposing Persian domination over the Arabs. This is an ancient hope of which the Persians have always dreamed. The rulers of Iran imagined they could exploit Islam to serve their evil objectives by claiming to defend and safeguard it.

The Iranian falsehood could have continued and claimed one or more Muslim nations, as it did Sudan, had it not been for Egypt taking the lead in exposing the Iranian scheme and methods. The result was that the imams lost their senses and launched a war against the people of Egypt, regrettably using a neighboring fraternal state as a tool without regard for principles or values. [passage omitted]

What have the imams of Iran and the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime in Sudan done and how are they seen abroad? While they coordinate to try to undermine stability and security in Egypt, the situation in their countries has deteriorated badly. At least a third of the Iranian people have fled abroad in search of a living after unemployment reached 20 percent, prices soared, and black market trading spread. The imams took everything and left nothing for the people. If one voice is raised in protest, the person is executed on the street after Friday prayers. [passage omitted]

The story of al-Bashir and al-Turabi is something else. Anyone who wants to understand it will have no difficulty. Look at the starving people who die every day because they cannot find a piece of bread. Look at the sick people who die because of disease and after living a few months or days in torment.

Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi sleeps in a paradise that, regrettably, has nothing to do with religion, which he claims he teaches. Perhaps the Sudanese brothers know what evening means for Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi.

The Sudanese Government recently issued a decision suspending the sale of gasoline, which halted commercial and noncommercial activity throughout the country. The people await the day of salvation, because they have seen no regime worse than that of al-Turabi, who now controls Sudan's affairs, whereas 'Umar al-Bashir is described as a representative of the military wing of the National Islamic Front. Leaflets are being distributed throughout Sudan accusing this wing of being the tool of terrorism at home and abroad.

The al-Bashir government made a naive decision the day before yesterday. It announced that it will conduct a population census today, Thursday, and ordered everyone to stay at home and wait for the census officials. The people, of course, know what is happening. They realize that the reason for the curfew is that the fuel shortage has paralyzed transport. Sudan awaits relief with the arrival of a tanker at Port Sudan carrying a limited quantity of fuel enough only for a few days. There will be a final solution to the problem only after three years, according to the energy and mining minister, Brigadier General Salah-al-Din Karar. They underestimate the people's intelligence.

Where is Iran in all this? Why didn't it offer to help its suspect ally, when it has the oil reserves? The Tehran rulers have kept silent, forcing al-Turabi and al-Bashir to turn to Yemen to try to deal with the crisis. It became clear to them later that the oil refinery in Port Sudan is not suitable for refining Yemeni oil. This is the reward for those who go astray.

The view of Iran and Sudan abroad is almost the same. The United States and Europe treat the rulers of the two countries as terrorists who do not hesitate to shed blood to satisfy their sick lust. They are also listed as supporters of dictatorship, who disregard the simplest forms of democracy and do not recognize freedom, but regard it as evil and the work of satan. This is inconsistent with the requirements of the age, which call for respect for human rights. [passage omitted]

They sought to inflict evil on Egypt, but evil surrounds them. They did the impossible to undermine Egypt's economy, but instead their economies collapsed. They tried to undermine the unity of the Egyptian people, but God willed it that their evil alliances would suffer disunity.

Egypt will continue its attempts to prevent the Persians from realizing their objectives. The Arabs are the force and asset of the future. There is no argument that Sudan will return to its kinfolk and brothers very soon.

Reportage Continues on Assassination Attempt on al-Sharif

Islamic Group Said To Claim Attack

NC2104120693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Egyptian newspapers today reported that the extremist Islamic Group organization has claimed responsibility for the attempt to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Muhammad Salim, the group's military wing leader in Asyut, told journalists on the telephone that the operation was in retaliation for al-Sharif's recent remarks to the Consultative Council. The papers cite Salim as saying the Islamic Group will continue its operations regardless of the price.

Muhammad Salim is wanted by the security agencies for his involvement in several attacks.

Muslim Brotherhood Denounces Violence

NC2104125993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—The Muslim Brotherhood has denounced yesterday's attempt on the life of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. The attack was vile, criminal, and unacceptable to Islam, a religion that made murder a cardinal sin, according to a statement the Brotherhood issued today.

The statement said the nation cannot benefit from panic spreading among the people, civilians being terrorized, and the military confrontation escalating. The attack on al-Sharif's life was part of this. The only people to benefit would be the nation's enemies.

The statement called on the entire nation to end the bloodshed immediately so that the ordeal might eventually disappear and the path to salvation can be found.

The statement reiterated the Brotherhood's denunciation of violence and all forms of terror and strongly condemned acts of injustice and aggression, especially if these acts involve murder, a crime God prohibits.

King Fahd Sends Message

LD2104215693 Riyadh SPA in English 1943 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, April 21, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has sent a message of congratulations to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in which he expressed happiness for the safety of Information Minister Safwat

al-Sharif who narrowly escaped an assassination attempt on Tuesday. The monarch prayed to Allah to spare Egypt from evil deeds and protect its people.

According to the Middle East News Agency, the message was handed by Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir to Safwat al-Sharif.

Moreover, the Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defence and Aviation and Inspector General Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz contacted al-Sharif on Tuesday and congratulated him on his safety.

Sentencing of Tourist Attack Defendants Reported

NC2204101493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0958 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court today issued its sentences in the case of the attacks against tourism. It sentenced eight defendents to death and three to life imprisonment.

The court sentenced eight defendants to 15 years imprisonment and acquitted 17 others.

Al-Jama'ah Tells Members to 'Commit Suicide' If Caught

NC2104194593 Paris AFP in English 1907 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, April 21 (AFP)—The extremist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah has ordered its members to commit suicide if arrested to ensure their confessions would not help police dismantle the group, sources close to the al-Jama'ah said Wednesday.

Al-Jama'ah militant Tahir Sulayman followed these instructions and jumped out of the fifth floor of the internal security building in the southern Egyptian town of Asyut on Monday during interrogation by police, they said. Police confirmed the suicide.

The al-Jama'ah instruction concerns group leaders who have important information which, if disclosed to the police, could lead to the dissolution of the outlawed movement or reveal its planned operations, the sources said.

Suicide is prohibited in Islam and a rare phenomenon among Muslims.

The al-Jama'ah is leading a running battle with the authorities to set up a strict Islamic state in Egypt, where some 140 people including tourists and Coptic Christians have been killed since March 1992.

Paper Views 'Silent Crisis' With U.S. Over Terrorism

NC2204063293 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 17 Apr 93 p 8

[From the "Closeup" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "The United States and Extremism"]

[Text] A silent crisis erupted between Egypt and the United States in the last few days over the issue of terrorism when strong signs appeared indicating that officials from the U.S. Embassy had met with leaders of the Islamic groups, as they are called, and that several meetings were held in which representatives from certain Western embassies in Cairo took part.

An official U.S. spokesman rushed to deny these reports even though U.S. papers highlighted them extensively. These reports coincided with others about covert contacts between the CIA and elements that joined the ranks of Afghan mujahidin and made Pakistan their headquarters for nourishing terrorism and extremism in a number of Arab countries, including Egypt, following the collapse of the Soviet regime in Afghanistan and the demobilization of volunteers.

What happened should not cause a crisis in relations, but it reveals that the major countries have interests and objectives that they do not hesitate to pursue and follow up even if they clash with declared principles and policies. The U.S. spokesman admitted that the U.S. Administration is meeting various people in several parts of the world to keep abreast of movements that affect its interests, including opposition parties here and there.

We should not be very surprised when we discover that certain U.S. circles established ties with al-Jihad Mufti Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd- al-Rahman and facilitated his entry into and stay in the United States. This does not necessarily mean that the United States is supporting and backing the forces of extremism or working to create them.

In his memoirs, Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security adviser for former President Jimmy Carter, revealed that the U.S. Administration discussed the possibility of establishing secret contacts with Ayatollah Khomeyni during his exile in Paris before the fall of the shah and that then Secretary of State Cyrus Vance advocated the idea. But the U.S. Administration hesitated out of fear of a leak of the report and the effects it would have had on the shah and the Bakhtiar government. Washington finally asked the French Government to make these contacts on its behalf.

Should we leave the task of fighting terrorism to the United States?

Awqaf Minister on Fundamentalism, Muslim Brotherhood

NC2204095193 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 18 Apr 93 p 35

[Interview with Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Some have written that the current acts of destruction and killing are being carried out by advocates of fundamentalism. Some scholars predicted such events several years ago but no one paid attention to them. What is happening now in Egypt is also happening in most countries of the world and to all religions. Do you agree with this view?

[Mahjub] Yes, we are all fundamentalists in the sense that we adhere to the rules of our religion, which is based on the Koran and the Sunna [the body of Islamic custom and practice based on Prophet Muhammad's words and deeds]. Our religion calls for progress, civilization, security, and peace. Our religion unites; it does not divide. We welcome and support this concept of fundamentalism. However, fundamentalism does not include those who claim to be fundamentalists but kill and destroy. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Recently, there have been calls for the formation of a so-called national front to fight terrorism. Some writers in nongovernment newspapers have called for the inclusion of the Muslim Brotherhood in this front. What is your view?

[Mahjub] Egypt is currently facing a challenge to its civilization and history. This makes it imperative for all to act as one. We as parties might have different viewpoints. However, when the matter concerns the country's security and stability, we are like one hand. No Egyptian should remain an onlooker while his country is being attacked, his brothers and sons are being killed, and his religion is being blamed and distorted. The issue does not only concern the homeland but primarily concerns Islam. This requires the participation of all in fighting terrorism. We welcome the Muslim Brotherhood in a national front to confront destruction and we put them in the forefront. We also welcome all parties, whatever name they have.

[Correspondent] Since the inception of Ayatollah Khomeyni's revolution and the overthrow of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, we have been hearing about attempts to export the Iranian revolution to all Muslim countries. What is your comment on this in light of the current events in Egypt?

[Mahjub] Egypt will never become another Iran. No Khomeyni will ever exist in Egypt. A revolution under the shah was justified. There is no justification for a similar thing happening in Egypt. Egypt has the holy al-Azhar, the biggest religious and scientific institution in the world. We do not need to learn from others, thanks be to God. If political whims and the lust for power have blinded fundamentalists and if they have been able to tempt and exploit certain weak-spirited people, this will soon end, God willing. The good nature of our country will ultimately triumph. We stress to them and to all that Egypt is not fertile ground for importing the Iranian revolution or any deviant thoughts. Egypt exports thought and science to all countries of the world.

[Correspondent] Is there coordination among Islamic states and among religious organizations and establishments in the world to rescue the Islamic world from terrorism and Islam from distortion?

[Mahjub] Yes, there is full coordination with all the Islamic countries to confront terrorism and religious extremism. We have signed protocols with several states, including Algeria, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates.

[Correspondent] While we are going through this ordeal, pseudointellectuals and persons with foreign affiliations are using the pulpits of private mosques to attack our scholars, cast doubt on their knowledge, and deride us, both subjects and rulers. They use verses from the Holy Koran and the prophet's sayings after twisting and distorting them to win the heart and mind of the people. Are you prepared to answer them?

[Mahjub] We must know that the government respects the freedom of speech. As a price for this freedom, we hear a lot of things we do not like. However, when the matter concerns the country's security, it must be confronted. If the word is poisonous and subversive, it must be stopped. The ministry pays great attention to the pulpit, which is a place for public address that greatly influences the people. Therefore, we want only qualified people who carry a license to use the pulpit. It is known that the ministry is earnestly working to annex all private mosques to control the Islamic call and secure the people ideologically. Until this fully takes place, there will be limited deviation. [passage omitted]

Education Minister on Extremist Influence in Schools

NC2104074793 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Apr 93 pp 2, 6

[Interview with Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din by AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondents Muhammad Abu-al-Hadid, Yusuf 'Izz-al-Din, Muhammad Khalifah, Mahmud Nafi', and Summayah 'Abd-al-Raziq, in Cairo, date not given; prepared for publication by Riyad Sayf-al-Nasr]

[Excerpts] It is no longer a secret that the extremist groups are conspiring to control the educational institutions with the aim of penetrating the nation's mind and influencing its future. This suspect scheme began with the extremists' infiltration of several teacher training colleges where they recruited hundreds of future teachers. Later, young girls were coerced into wearing the veil and students were forbidden to chant patriotic anthems or salute the flag during their morning lineup.

The extremists' next step was to reject the curricula set by the Education Ministry and impose alternative curricula harmonious with their ideas, including extremist material recorded on cassettes. Thousands of cassettes encouraging sectarian strife were distributed with the aim of pushing society into the abyss.

Opinion was divided on how to confront this terrorist scheme. Some senior state employees opposed firm action against the extremists on the pretext that we should not provoke the terrorists. Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din had another view.

AL-JUMHURIYAH conducted this week's dialogue with the education minister about the danger inherent in the penetration of educational institutions, ways of confronting terrorism, and the harsh circumstances students are facing this year, including the earthquake and the recent wave of fainting among female students. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] How did extremism penetrate our schools?

[Baha'-al-Din] Extremists and terrorists have been planning to control education. This was expected. We politicians foresaw it, but it was not effectively confronted when it first appeared in numerous schools and some teacher training colleges. This development did not happen overnight but no one confronted it at all. Forced wearing of veils in schools and dubbing and distributing cassettes did not appear overnight. President Mubarak has urged firm confrontation of this phenomenon. It is natural that we should all confront and expose this issue because it harms national security and Egypt's future.

It was clear that terrorism was seeking to attain several objectives, including penetrating and manipulating teachers colleges. Thank God most teachers are still unaffected. Nevertheless, to be honest with ourselves and the public we must say that the extremists have penetrated several teachers colleges and recruited hundreds of teachers. This number is still small compared with a total of 750,000 teachers in Egypt, but we must guard against the danger of this phenomenon spreading.

By recruiting teachers, terrorists can impose the veil. We do not oppose wearing the veil if it is a personal choice but we oppose its imposition by violent means on girls ?s young as six, seven, ?r eight. Such a de?elopment requires that we pause and think, particularly as it is no longer a matter connec??d with religion. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Have they imposed curricula different from those set by the Education Ministry?

[Baha'-al-Din] One of the terrorists' political aims is to impose different educational curricula. [passage omitted] When the state sets a curricu?um they do not want, they resort to arm twisting and try to impose other curricula by force. They produce cassettes and use them during lessons.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Have there been specific cases?

[Baha'-al-Din] Many. Cassettes containing material about the torment of the grave after death, the remission of sins, and attacks on Christians, who are our partners in the homeland, were played during Arabic language classes. Such material has no connection with teaching Arabic and is not included in the curriculum. When someone claims that these are licensed cassettes, my response is that the country has many other things, like night clubs, which are also licensed. Are we to introduce night clubs into the schools? [passage omitted]

There are other attempts to impose certain activities in schools other than those set by the ministry. For example, we require that the school day begins with the salute of the flag. They refuse to salute the flag or recite the national anthe?, which expresses loyalty to the country, and they demand that religious hymns or benedictions be recited instead. We tell them: Who allowed you to do that? Did the nation authorize it?

If a school tries to organize a cultural or artistic activity, they say no to it and forcibly prevent it.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] You have used the term "impose" several times when referring to the terrorists' acts in schools. Does this mean that a parallel Education Ministry exists that is forcibly imposing its views in the schools?

[Baha'-al-Din] No, of course not. There is no such parallel ministry. There are individuals who assume they have the constitutional right to impose an educational system different from the one the state authorized the Education Ministry to implement.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Are these people powerful enough to impose their wishes on the Education Ministry?

[Baha'-al-Din] Something of the sort has occurred in many schools, but we are confronting it. We will not remain silent. Anyone who carries out such acts is removed from his educational post and deterrent measures are adopted against him. Egypt's future is not a game. It will not be left to the terrorists and perverted people. [passage omitted]

Libya

U.S. Administration Said To Accept Lockerbie Trial Deal

PM2104155993 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "From Our Own Sources"]

[Text] According to well-informed European sources, President Clinton's administration has accepted a formula under which 'Abd-al-Basit al-Miqrahi and al-Amin Khalifah Fahima, the two Libyan suspects in the case of the explosion of the U.S. airliner over Lockerbie in 1988,

would be extradited to Britain to stand trial before a special court in Scotland, with a number of guarantees to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The following are the most important of these guarantees: A promise that the two Libyan suspects would stand trial but would not be interrogated, a promise that no U.S. official would be allowed to interrogate or investigate them outside the court room and that UN and Arab League observers would be permitted to visit the suspects in prison daily to ascertain that they are not coming under any pressure, and a promise that the two Libyans would not be handed over to the United States whatever the verdict.

The sources added that Arab efforts were being made to persuade al-Qadhdhafi to accept that formula, particularly now that U.S. officials have accepted it, on the grounds that it is "the best possible way" of avoiding new UN sanctions against Libya.

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Address to Students 19 Apr

LD2104200493 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1242 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Address by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to students and teaching staff members at the Faculty of Economy and Political Science in the al-Fatih University, Tripoli, on 19 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] At the beginning, I should like to express my great thanks to the professors and students of the faculty for having conferred this honor on me [applause], and I hope and will try, God willing, to meet your expectations. I greet in you the degree of pan-Arabism and revolutionary awareness for linking this honoring with a contradictory thing taking place in another place of the Arab homeland, Kuwait. At a time when they are honoring Bush by granting him a doctorate there, they are on the other hand harming themselves and the Arab nation, while you here are honoring yourselves, the Arab nation and [word indistinct]. As a matter of fact the Arab nation is occupied, but regrettably there is no resistance. Before, we used to face up to occupation with resistance, but now there is no resistance. Resistance has been aborted, aborted—there was a miscarriage. Heresy [al-zandaqah] appeared, absorbed anger and became an issue, with the main concern of governments becoming fighting heresy, and colonialist states manipulating heresy to the left, right, backward, forward, according to their wish to put pressure on this or that state. The trend now is that of heresy, and heresy is quite an old thing.

Concerning al-Takfir wa'l-Hijrah [Repudiation and Renunciation—Islamic fundamentalist group], we do not deny that some elements of it exist, have existed in Libya through heretics who came from Egypt and Jordan in the form of—please forgive me—teachers, and some of them as preachers commissioned by the heresy movement. We did not use to hear about al-Takfir wa'l-Hijrah, al-Da'wah [Islamic call], and al-Jihad. To us jihad means action, a work by a Muslim for the cause of God. Now it is a party, not work, not jihad. It is a party. We hear about Hizballah being the successful one. When they mention Allah this means that there is a party of God and a party of Satan, with all Muslims, the believers being all Hizballah, while the unbelievers are the party of Satan, but not in the political meaning of the world. However now they have turned this into a political party called Hizballah. Just look at the deterioration, the misrepresentation. You hear about Hizballah, [word indistinct] Hizballah, losses were inflicted on Hizballah, the chairman of Hizballah has been killed, the chairman of Hizballah has been [word indistinct]. This is a kind of blasphemy. When Hizballah was mentioned in the Koran, it was a reference to the faithful and not to a political party. God has nothing to do with elections, referendums, constitutions, laws, internal rules, five-year plans—God forbid. It is not conceivable that God would get involved in these things. [passage omitted]

You must not judge by virtue of a relationship, nepotism or bribery; you take a bribe or you say that one is a relative. No, you must judge among contenders by what God has ordained. However, the system of political rule shows us how to conduct elections, referendums, balloting and voting systems. God spoke about something else. This is some kind of a degeneration; that we have started to associate God with these things.

Bush is in Kuwait and they have honored him as a liberator; he is the liberator of oil for his country. There are no forces that are aware. Truly, there are no liberation forces. The mode which is in force now is heresy which is not new; it is old. [passage omitted] These brought about al-Takfir wa'l- Hijrah, al-Da'wah, and al-Jihad which you now hear about; precisely those—the same as Isma'iliyah and Batiniyah. One has to be a simpleton to believe [in these movements]. We call it the rostrum of the simpleton. They do it by the use of bombs, pressure or swearing. You come to open the door and find a bomb exploding. By God, they must be simpletons. [passage omitted]

These were serious movements aimed at destroying Islam and Arab nationalism so that they would triumph for their religions which were destroyed by Islam. If you are an Arab, what have you to do with al-Takfir wa'l-Hijrah, O simpleton. These are historical [word instinct] movements.

When non-Muslims [word indistinct], communists, started spreading in Arab countries, where did they come from? I belong to a minority in the Arab homeland; for example, I am a Kurd. As a Kurd, I would feel that I belong to a minority among Arabs. I would always feel that I am suffering and deprived, because Arabs are the majority and I am a minority.

What would make me equal to the Arabs? Communism. I become a communist citizen, and you, an Arab, become a communist citizen, then they would not say: this one is Arab and this one is a Kurd. They would say: this is a communist. To defend my minority we must become equal by adopting communism, and therefore,

all who had brought communism to the Arab homeland were from minorities, in order to defend their minorities. But you, an Arab belonging to pan-Arabism, to the greater Arab nation, what have you got to do with communism, you fool? Communism is resorted to by someone from a minority, who wants us to be all communists so as to become equal. You, an Arab, do not feel inferior, and therefore why should you become a communist citizen.

Communism is internationalist, and there is an Islamic communism, i.e the Muslim Brotherhood or [words indistinct]. The Muslim Brotherhood is the same: he who belongs to a minority in the Arab homeland feels that he is ...[changes thought] ... suppose that he is, for instance, an Armenian, or a Jew, and you are an Arab, we consider them as minorities, downtrodden and they want a doctrine that equates them to the Arabs: Muslim Brotherhood, [word indistinct], we are all brothers and Muslims. That is it, the word Arab is forbidden; let pan-Arabism go to hell! [passage omitted]

How can you be from al-Takfir wa'l-Hijrah when this means being a traitor to pan-Arabism in the first place? No, these are political and doctrinal movements which must be taught, especially at this time. Now heresy is being propagated in the Arab homeland. [passage omitted] These religious movements resort to assassinations, secret propaganda, setting up of groups with each group having at its head a leader or amir to whom allegiance is expressed with a view to undermining the Arab nation and Islam. They use also the same method: first, they make a Muslim have doubts about Islam. [passage omitted]

Presently, a member of al-Takfir wa'l-Hijrah, al-Da'wah, or al- Jihad, the current heretical movements, would come to you and say: These people are astray and God has not guided them yet; he would consider you as [word indistinct] who God will guide later. That is it, this would make you have doubts about your faith, your Islam. You would say: good, what Islam is then? They would say: well, you want Islam, enter our movement; be a member of al-Takfir wa'l- Hijrah.

It becomes like an empty bag; an empty jug and barrel, which they fill up with their rotten air. This is the case of those who today join the group of al-Takfir wa'l-Hijrah, al-Jihad, al-Da'wah. The person who joins them is like this: he is a like an empty barrel; they take away your faith and instill you with their doctrine. Consequently, you find yourself divorced from Islam; this leads to the destruction of pan-Arabism. The issue of pan-Arabism does not exist in their belief; if you tell them that you are an Arab, they say God forbid, as if you have told them that you were [? devils], [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

The wife of Shawqi was interviewed and said she had married her husband without an engagement; because, as she said, the idea of entering into an engagement is blasphemy. She supported this argument by quoting a Koranic verses which says: The woman gave herself away to the prophet. She said: I have done the same thing and gave myself away to my husband. Accordingly, and I apologize for saying this, your presence in this world which was due to an engagement act between your parents, means that this act was illegal. [passage omitted]

Therefore, this group considers all Muslims as illegitimate sons and blasphemous; and if you kill any number of them this would be considered as killing any scores of cattle; this is what we are currently witnessing in Algeria and Egypt. For them the present Muslim is not a real Muslim, therefore they have no moral qualms in killing any number of people. Obviously, this is unlawful, because one is killing innocent and real Muslim people, there is no room to discus Islam here. If we are to discuss Islam, one knows that Islam is composed of five pillars: prayers five time a day, pilgrimage, fasting during the month of Ramadan, the belief that there is only one God and Muhammad is his prophet, and almsgiving; there is nothing else to discuss.

What is the reason for the emergence now of missionaries who are outbidding again about the cause of Islam? They are bringing in tests to decide whether one is a Muslim or not, and give new instructions. What is the reason for this? [passage omitted]

As long as long as Islam is manifest and its points of worship are clear, what is the reason for the emergence of new movements that have nothing to do with the issue. You cannot say that they affirm these known points of worship which have been stated in the Koran. Otherwise there will be no need for secrecy and for any bombs. [passage omitted]

Egypt is full of mosques, and the mosques are full of preachers who openly talk on television about the points of worship, religion and Islam; imams who are known to people, they are good people, liked by others and have no bombs or guns. What is the meaning of the existence of another group of people who talk about religion but use guns and bombs? [passage omitted]

This old heresy which emerged during the era of the Abbasid state is bent on destroying Islam which attacked the Magian [majusi] religion of the Persians. They destroyed it [the religion of the Persians]. They got people entangled in things like asking them to pray 50 times [a day]. Work hard to leave Islam. See, first they tell you pray, pray, you must pray. You say to yourself: he calls for praying, but when he says pray 50 times a day, this makes you want to disavow Islam. This is what is meant, to make you abandon Islam. [They say] walk 45 km on foot. This exists, there are dervishes, poor people with whom I debated. This movement is called al-Tabligh. They said by God it is better to walk 45 km. This is sport. Will this not make people want to abandon religion when you link such a thing to religion? They also ask people to carry 25 kg of sand on their backs. Would it not be better for people to toil as farmers, build roads

or buildings? Is this not better than to walk 45 km with 25 kg of sand on one's back? They want you to disavow Islam.

When the heretical movement appeared at the time, it came to existence to destroy Islam, because Islam transformed the religion of the Persians. They are taking their revenge on Islam. They penetrated it so as to destroy it. They are taking revenge on the Arab nation for attacking the Persian nation. They split it into groups and dogmas, although the follower of Islam knows that partisanship is forbidden. Factionalism is forbidden. Groups are forbidden. Dogmas are forbidden. [passage omitted]

These things came from the Persians. The majority of those who came up with those dogmas are not Arabs. Their aim is to divide the Arabs. Religion is one and the dogma is one. That is it. They divided us into Sunnis and Shiites. Sunnah means following the ways of the Prophet, and who contravenes the ways of the Prophet? Sunnah means the ways of the Prophet. The heretics were the ones who fabricated many sayings and attributed them to the Prophet. [passage omitted]

[Excerpts] These minorities themselves had propagated communism to stand on an equal footing with the Arab majority. However, you, the Arab, have no such inferiority. Do not join them. Are you so very naive, as Arabs, to join these organizations? How can you? You have the Arab nationality and your religion is Islam, and that is enough. Do you need someone from Persia to teach you?

However, regrettably heresy has now been resurrected and we find some Arabs who have joined al-Takfir wa'l-Hijrah, al-Da'wah and al- Jihad. They do not believe that these are movements initiated outside the Arab world and outside the Arab nation, imported from Persia and from foreign countries and outside Islam yet colored with the nationalist local religions of those countries where Islam reached through conquest, which was also wrong as we did not benefit from them. Now they have entered to destroy the Arab nation, destroy the Arab nationality, and destroy Islam. How could an Arab join al-Takfir wa'l-Hijrah? [audience chants: One Arab nation, one Arab homeland, applause]

The governments combating them are naive, and the Arabs who join them are naive. They are clever people who could plant this decay inside the Arab homeland. You would not find them there, in those foreign countries where they came from. They exist only in the Arab homeland, an indication that it is an invasion operation. Consequently heresy has woven [a network] of the Muslim Brotherhood, the so-called Hizb al-Tahrir al-Islami [Islamic Liberation party], al-Takfir wa'l-Hijrah, al-Da'wah, al-Jihad, and al-Jama'ah. This heresy must be fought exactly like imperialism and Zionism are fought, and must be crushed anywhere they have a presence.

If we were reviving Islam and reviving fundamentalism it is a different matter. Those who are called fundamentalists are us. The Center for Historical Studies in France, where tens of researchers specialized in North Africa and Oriental studies with some 60 researchers specialized in Libya and North Africa, have asserted in all their studies that the fundamental revolution is the al-Fatih revolution; the Libyan revolution is the fundamental revolution. [passage omitted]

They say that the Libyan revolution is the revolution of authenticity, which means the fundamentalist revolution. We are therefore the leaders of the authentic or fundamentalist revolution. [passage omitted]

However, this [Western cultural influence] cannot be combated with bombs and pistols or with al-Takfir wa'l-Hijrah. It can only be combated with authenticity, with the cultural revolution, and with pan-Arabism. As a matter of fact, we are each other's challenger: we are Arabs and they are Americans; we are Arabs and they are Saxons; we are Arabs and they Germanics; we are Arabs and they are Francs.

Some of them have arrived at the level of being equal to animals, regrettably, happy at the Arab nation being mangled by al-Takfir wa'l-Hijrah, al-Da'wah, al-Jihad, al-Tahrir. How many times have we talked about the Islamic Liberation Party? I had a debate with their leadership for three or five hours. I found them as a curse, God protect us! They are extreme reaction, ignorance, fanaticism, and dictatorship. [passage omitted]

If someone says, we must liberate Palestine, they [Islamic Liberation Party] would say: no, first there should be a caliphate, and then, the caliph should be the one to give the order for liberation. This means linking the liberation of Palestine with the existence of a caliph, and we know naturally that there will never be a caliph. The English and the Israelis know that the era of a caliphate is a thing of the past that will not happen, and therefore, there will never be a day when a caliph is there to order the liberation of Palestine. This means that, according to this belief of the Islamic Liberation Party, Palestine will never be liberated. They are more dangerous than the Israelis; this Islamic Liberation Party is more dangerous than the Israelis. They are misleading the young, telling them to come and join the Liberation; they have books, they give money, and they have means from colonialism. The Mossad, the Israeli intelligence, is behind them; the Mossad is financing them. [passage omitted]

No, doctor, this topic should be introduced into the curriculum. You must reach the young and also teach this to others. We must not be victims of those who think we are fools. This would not be reasonable. We must know the causes of the spread of these movements and when the heretic movement appeared. We must be able to compare between the old heresy and the current one. We would then find that it is the same, reappearing. It re-emerged with the aim of destroying pan-Arabism, destroying Islam. [passage omitted]

Who joins these movements? The jobless, the lazy, the [word indistinct], the one who abandons his family, an elderly woman, elderly parents who every day say: We

have no one to look after us. What can we do for them in this case, in the case of somebody having gone astray? [passage omitted]

How can one allow himself to kiss the shoes of anyone? If you ask him he would say: He is my emir. So what? (?Is he a God?) Is this the age of the masses or the age of the emirs?

The nation is in danger. This is a part of the political and economic subjects that you are supposed to study for four or more years, and you are expected to grasp this. It is a nation with deteriorating economic conditions. It has nothing except oil wealth. If there is oil, imperialism can never let oil slip from its hands. Imperialism is bound to occupy the oil bearing regions.

This is the reason you have not seen a revolution happening in the countries that have oil. Revolution ought to happen in those countries. [words indistinct] Imperialism has both its hands and feet in control of the oil.

Iraq attacked a western oil field. You saw what happened. It was like an attack on an oil field in Texas. A stupid fellow attacks a pro-western oil field. In Libya—an oil bearing country just like Kuwait and any other—a revolution (?would break out). It was impossible to imagine that a revolution could take place in Libya.

Ruling out the outbreak of a revolution in Libya was based on several reasons. They believed that the Libyan people were illiterate. It is not possible for a revolutionary movement to break out among illiterate people. Also, the population is small and the surface area of the country is large and very vast. [passage omitted]

Now we enter political science: if Iraq comes to belong to the West, even Kuwait will be annexed to Iraq. What you hear these days is unusual. There is talk anew—an Iraqi paper wrote this and this was unexpected—that Kuwait will be part of Iraq and will be the 19th governorate. This is being said now: the Iraqi BABIL wrote this. This is very serious, because Iraq had already made a commitment in Portsmouth that it has nothing to do with Kuwait and that Kuwait is an independent state forever. How come Iraq now says that Kuwait shall remain part of Iraq and will one day return to Iraq as the 19th governorate?

Then it becomes reality. If Iraq comes to belong to the West, Iraq becomes more important than Kuwait. They will even annex Kuwait to Iraq. All they are looking for is oil and a sphere of influence.

They used to say before that the president of Iraq must be brought down. Now the Americans have retreated and said: no this is not a condition. This means there is a new situation on the horizon. Now they have begun to talk about Iran once more. They said: by God, Iran constitutes a threat to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and these regions—in other words, a threat to oil. For them, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait mean nothing.

We, the Arabs, talk about Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi. For them, all this is oil—an oil field. They talked about Iraq as a threat to the oil field. Now Iran constitutes a threat to the oil fields. Thus, who stands up to Iran?

They said that there was no-one other than Iraq, but we destroyed it. They entered into political contradictions. This, by the way, belongs to political science. In the end, however, they find an explanation. They said we did not lose. These are Western oil fields. All the powers around them must be weak.

Iran, during Khomeyni's era, became a power, and Iraq was turned against it. The West was with Iraq against Iran—until Iran was destroyed. Iraq became strong; so they created the Kuwait [word indistinct] and then destroyed Iraq. They say: We have not lost. Iran was a power close to our oil fields, so we destroyed it. Iraq was a power at the border of our oil fields and constituted a threat to them, so we destroyed it. Therefore, it is alright; we have not lost. We will destroy any power around our oil fields so that it will not be able to stretch its arms.

After destroying Iran and Iraq, there is now fresh fear of Iran. This is because the destruction of Iraq was more than required. They went too far in destroying Iraq. They attacked Baghdad and its suburbs in the last days of the Bush [words indistinct]. It was a dramatic finale. He hit Baghdad with 40 transcontinental cruise missiles. They destroyed Iraq to a larger extent than required, so much so that Iran felt that there was no power in its path. Fears over oil fields started again. Now they have started to ease their pressure on Iraq and have focused their talk on Iran.

That kind of talk must be analyzed by all students of political science: Iran is a terrorist state and so on. That is a lie. Iran is not a terrorist state or anything like that. It has not engineered explosions nor anything like it.

Iran in Rafsanjani's era is a moderate state, which has nothing to do with terrorism. Indeed, during Khomeyni's days, there was a revolutionary policy—a revolutionary policy that deployed violence, or what they call terrorism. However, Iran now has absolutely nothing to do with world (?terrorism).

Why are they focusing on it and saying that Iran is a terrorist state. This is with the aim of paralyzing Iran economically and militarily. The aim is to impose an economic siege on it, not a military one, because it constitutes a threat to oil fields. It has nothing to do with terrorism and the like. [passage omitted]

The purpose behind this is to scare Iran. They make a song and dance about terrorism. It is as if Israel pretended that attacking and occupying land was not for water. There is no terrorist action. The objective is to freeze Iran so that it does not outgrow Iraq in strength and pose a threat to oil fields within the framework of the Arab-Persian conflict. There is no terrorist action. [words indistinct]

It was the Shah who occupied Greater and Lesser Tunbs and the Island of Abu Musa. Iran has ambitions in the

region, not because it is a revolutionary power but for historical reasons—the Arab nation with which it has common borders and with which it is involved in a struggle over a region that has oil. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Abu Dhabi are all oil regions. They are very important. [passage omitted]

When Iran felt that Iraq had become very weak, it began to think about this region, about borders. Those people began to shout at the Americans: come, Iran has risen again! Risen again? What shall we do about it? They said there is no one but Iraq to stand up to it. Thus, ease a bit off Iraq in order to scare Iran with it. This is the game now.

There is a veto from the West: Iraq and Syria cannot unite. Egypt and Sudan must be in a state of discord. The same applies to Libya and Algeria, Libya and Egypt. There is a veto from the West to prevent the establishment of Arab unity. When we made a unionist plan with Algeria, the Americans said openly that this action harms the national interests of the United States, and it will not allow it.

I phoned [former Algerian President] Bendjedid and said: Did you hear what the Americans said? He said: No, by God, I did not. What did they say? I said they said so and so. He said: You believe such talk? It is unreasonable! We are free in the world. I said: Fine, you will see. They went and hatched the October plot, the clash in which 300 died. Algeria came to a standstill.

Union? What union? Algeria is still in the blood bath facing the same plot. They created the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] for it. Before that, they organized the bloody demonstrations and brought down Chadli Bendjedid. They forced him to resign. See the plot? [passage omitted]

Compare the state of the Arab nation now, the serious conspiracies, and what has been happening at home from the Ocean to the Gulf—which is the laughingstock of all—and the heresy against Islam and the western films. These things—the western films about dancing—are the ones that make us progress. The laziness and the greed and the calls for the import of—all these western things—these things rend one's heart and make one feel sorry for this state of affairs.

Is it conceivable that the Palestinian delegation is formed by the Israelis? The Israelis have been forming the Palestinian delegation that will negotiate with them. The Israeli line dictates the formation of the delegation. They presented the delegation names to the Israelis who said: Not this one, and not that one, and so on. Who then? They said: Put this and that person on the delegation. Put al-Husayni and I don't know who on it. If you are my foe, what has it got to do with you? What sort of negotiations are these, if the enemy is the one who dictates the names of the delegation that is supposed to be his foe in the negotiations? Can there be worse humiliation than this humiliation? Can these talks lead to recovering the rights of the Palestinian people or the rights of the Arab nation?

About the Golan: What did they tell them about the Golan? They told them that the Golan is in three parts. This is Syria. These are the Syrian Golan heights. They withdraw from these. This is Syrian, but it is a no-man's land. There will be no Syrian forces. In Syria, however, there are international forces, but on the condition that they are American forces. This one—the third one—it is the Golan that overlooks Palestine. This Golan is Palestinian. They said this land originally is part of Palestine, and this Golan is ours because we are occupying Palestine. They said that borders between us and Syria are these. [words indistinct]

This map is also for the Golan. This part belongs to Syria. The second part is not part of Syria. It is part of Syria in name only. In actual fact, it is part of the American forces. The third part, which overlooks Palestine, they said it is originally Palestinian, and it will be occupied by Israeli forces. It means that this American flag will be here, and here will be the Israeli flag because this part is Palestinian. And here is the Syrian flag. This is the plan and the liberation.

Libya is required to fully comply with UN Security Council resolutions, while the Israelis are not required to do so. [passage omitted]

In light of this analysis, the issue becomes very serious. I do not believe the crisis will be solved by the books of Ibn Taymiyah or the books of al-Ghazali who says: Death is an animal larger than the donkey and smaller than the horse. This is what al-Ghazali says. The heretics are reading his books and similar things. What difference does it make, if you say death is like a donkey or like a horse. Death is death anyway. [passage omitted]

We should read about chemistry, physics, the atom, the use of solar energy. By this, we would at least be defending our existence, and no one will hit us in our homes, as they do to us all the time. They said there should be an emir in Islam. Then they said: Do not fight the people of the book; fight the Muslims.

Who eliminated us? From where did the ordeal come to us? It came from the people of the book. If we are spared by the people of the book, we would be all right. Who colonized us? [passage omitted]

Are they from the people of the book? The infidels did not do us harm. If the communists were infidels, they were our friends. How I wish they are still in power!

This is not the Islam that scares Christians and Jews. They fear the Islam of force; not that of knives, swords, and the yellow cat. This is what made the West protect these leaderships so that they continuously spread their poison in the body of the Arab nation and Islam, to destroy Islam and the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

There had been hatred against the Arabs and against Islam, which destroyed their empire. They expelled us from Andalucia after 800 years—800 years. We could have stayed until the day of judgment. But 800 years

later, we became weak, and they threw us out. There is a deep rooted vengeance against the Arabs who occupied Andalucia. [passage omitted]

Generally, I thank you once again for attending and listening. I am sorry if I have spoken for too long. God willing, we will be meeting again. The struggle continues.

Student Union Official Meets U.S. Delegation

LD2104193093 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] The secretary of the General Union of Students of the Great Jamahiriyah met last night with representatives of youth of the U.S. Democratic Party. During the meeting, they discussed the scope of cooperation and coordination of student and youth activity between the General Union of Students of the Great Jamahiriyah and the youth of the U.S. Democratic Party.

Tunisia

PLO's 'Arafat Holds Talks With President

LD1604215993 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] At noon today at Carthage Palace President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting also was attended by Habib Ben Yahia, minister of foreign affairs, and Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee.

After the meeting, Yasir 'Arafat made a statement in which he mentioned that his meeting with the president was very important, particularly as the date of the negotiations fixed by the two sponsors of the peace conference—Russia and the United States—is approaching. He added that the talks discussed the coming meetings in detail, particularly the quintuple meeting of the frontline countries, the meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo, and the meeting of the frontline countries with the Arab Maghreb Union.

He said that the talks also included the situation within the occupied territories. He referred to the escalation of Israel's iron fist policy, the military blockade of the Palestinian camps, and the Israeli Government's ban on Christian sects performing their religious rights in Jerusalem, which adds to Israel's continuous violations of the Islamic sacred shrines.

Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] added that he discussed with the president the importance of removing the obstacles obstructing the peace process so that the Arab and Palestinian delegations will be able to participate in the coming round of negotiations.

He expressed hopes that within the coming few days it will be possible to remove these obstacles, which are the issue of the deportees; the blockade; the oppression campaigns; and the new Israeli military campaigns in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem.

He also expressed hopes for rising up to the challenges faced by the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

He said: We support a just and comprehensive peace. Peace is not in the interest of the Palestinians only, but is also in the interest of Europe and the United States, as well as Israel.

He emphasized that that a just and comprehensive peace should take into consideration the legitimate national political rights of the Palestinian people as specified by international legitimacy and the international resolutions.

Concluding his statement, Yasir 'Arafat reiterated his thanks to the president for the stand adopted by the Tunisian president, government, and people on the side of the Palestinian strugglers under these difficult circumstances of the Palestinian people.

* 'Decline' of Democratization Criticized

93P50157A Paris LE MONDE in French 11-12 Apr 93 p 5

[Article by Michel Deure]

[Text] Some 200 university professors, students, doctors, lawyers, and engineers called on "democratic forces" to establish a "forum" for a "national world debate." The signatories to this text, which was made public Friday, 9 April, believe that the "change" announced at the assumption of the presidency by Ben Ali "has been marked by a noticeable decline." This decline is illustrated by the continuance of a parliament dominated by one party, the "serious downturns in the field of human rights and liberties," and by the "monopolization" of the media.

In their opinion, this "decline" is due largely to the "strength of the forces opposed to change," to the broadening of security concerns," and to the "infiltration of public institutionsi that are prevented from playing their role of counterweight." According to their position, the continuation of this situation, which is characterized by "the domination of the state-party (...) may result in political upheaval." The secretariat of state for information responded in a statement that this matter concerns "a web of false and slanderous allegations that has nothing to do with reality." "Never in Tunisia since before the 7 November 1987 change have individual and collective liberties been as respected and human rights as guarateed," it affirmed, "never before has the preeminence of the state of law and its institutions been as much in evidence."

The authorities emphasized that it is not by accident that this call has been released at a time "when the atmosphere in the country is relaxed and calm and when the Tunisian Human Rights League has resumed its activities" (LE MONDE, 31 March). The communique also condemns the "pathetic politicking" of the signatories to the appeal, characterizing them as "bitter, disillusioned social climbers."

INA Reports Saddam al-Faw Address, Part 3

JN2204075793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has stressed that we are proud that the Iraqi Army's experience and efficiency are unmatched by any other army in the world. His excellency added that the studies, readiness, and preparations for the liberation of al-Faw took place before the 14 days that preceded the liberation. This came during President Saddam Husayn's meeting with a number of military commanders and several officials who had the honor of taking part in Operation Ramadan to liberate al-Faw. He said that the idea of liberation turned the hearts, minds, and consciences of men into live components to be utilized on the battlefield.

President Saddam Husayn said: The fighter is the one who gains experience in drawing up plans in light of his deep experience. The president was refuting claims that an officer from an Arab country drew up the plan for the liberation of al-Faw. His excellency noted that the one who does not engage in combat cannot—despite his knowledge—draw up a successful plan for the faithful mujahidin to help them carry out their national, pan-Arab, and human tasks in a combat atmosphere. President Saddam Husayn said: The plan for the liberation of al-Faw is your plan; it is the plan of the mujahidin in the army of jihad which fought for eight years.

President Saddam Husayn expressed hope that all Arab armies will have the commitment demonstrated by the army of mujahidin in the al- Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles. His excellency added that the commitment we mean is not that of the armies of parades, but the one which makes a fighter make decisions while bombs are showering the battlefield. He added that the land of al-Faw is full of bomb craters.

His excellency said: If the Arabs follow the right path, then every Arab soldier from the far West to the far East will implement decisions not only with high efficiency, but also with the great belief and firm conviction that those who are leading the people are concerned about every drop of blood. He noted that high values and the homeland dictate on us, when the situation arises, to become the fuel of the battle so that the homeland will become dear and the values remain lofty, enlightening, shining, and influential.

President Saddam Husayn asked: What army has fought more than the Iraqi Army? Which officer has fought and waged battles more than the Iraqi officers? Which officer has gained the Iraqi officers' experience or part of their experience? Which man in this world has waged as many battles as the Iraqi Army?

President Saddam Husayn reviewed, during the meeting, the confidentiality, secrecy, and deception demonstrated by the Iraqis to implement the chapters of the liberation of al-Faw.

The president reiterated his high confidence in all the commanders and fighters of the Iraqi Army as well as in their military commitment and concern to carry out national duty and retain its secrets.

During the meeting, several military commanders spoke about the tasks and duties with which they were charged by President Saddam Husayn in order to implement the chapters of the liberation of al- Faw, the city of sacrifice and the gate of the great victory, in the great liberation battle, Operation Ramadan.

Eighty Allied Planes Said Shot Down in Gulf War

JN2104191993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] In Baghdad, Staff Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, commander of the Iraqi Air Force, has announced that Iraq shot down 80 allied aircraft during the Gulf war. He added that his country is ready to repulse any foreign aggression. This came in a statement to the Iraqi Government newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH on the 62d anniversary of the Iraqi Air Force, which will be observed tomorrow.

SAIRI Accuses Army of Massacring Villagers

LD2104205093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] The Iraqi Army has massacred the inhabitants of a village in al-Basrah Province. The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] issued a statement on Wednesday quoting its own sources saying: Only 25 of the inhabitants of the village of Umm al-Batush, in the district of the town of Qurnah in al-Basrah Province, have survived the attack. In its statement SAIRI adds: The 25 survivors of the beastly attack were transferred to unknown places by the Iraqi regime agents.

Daily Claims Iran Shelled 4 Border Villages

JN2204070993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Apr (INA)—AL-THAWRAH newspaper has said that the Iranian forces have fired artillery shells at Iraqi villages near the Iranian border in northern Iraq. AL-THAWRAH, speaking for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that the shelling, which took place in an area in which the anti-Iraq allied forces arestationed and which is under the control of the agent cliques, targeted, for the second consecutive day, four border villages in the al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the shelling caused heavy damage to many houses and resulted in the displacement of a large number of Kurdish citizens who live in these villages.

The paper adds that the agent cliques which control the area—the Kurdistan Autonomous Region—made no move to confront this shelling nor did they denounce the act, under the pretext that the attack targeted the positions of the Iranian Kurdish opposition.

Government Accepts Invitation To Return to Talks

TA2104201793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] This evening, Israel officially accepted the invitation to return to the peace talks on 27 April. An announcement the prime minister published several minutes ago says that the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists to Lebanon was an unprecedented exception. The announcement further says that at present the State of Israel has no plans to carry out additional deportations. Israel believes that when the negotiations resume, the parties will take additional steps to improve the atmosphere.

Rabin Statement on Attending Talks 27 Apr

TA2204061193 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 21 Apr 93

["Statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin—communicated by Gad Ben-Ari, prime minister's media adviser"—GPO headline]

[Text] Israel will participate in the peace negotiations to be renewed in Washington on 27 April, immediately after our Independence Day. We have conveyed this message to the two co- sponsors, the United States and Russia.

We regret the delay in the negotiations on the part of the Arab parties. We hope that, following their decision to come now to the negotiating table, serious and realistic negotiations will be conducted in Washington. In order to achieve understandings, Israel on its part is determined to conduct negotiations and do everything to promote peace, while preserving its security and struggling against any violence aimed at its citizens.

Israel has seen an upsurge in violence directed against its citizens. Israel has an obligation, recognized by all, to do whatever is necessary to protect its people and country. One of these measures is deportations, which the Israeli Supreme Court has affirmed is legal. The Israeli government believes that its action last December to temporarily remove Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists from Israel dealt a major blow to that terrorist organization.

The decision announced by the Government of Israel on 1 February 1993, concerning the Hamas activists was an act of good faith on Israel's part consistent with the principles of United Nations Security Council Resolution 799. In this way, compliance with the spirit of United Nations Security Council Resolution 799 will be achieved; however, this resolution was extremely unjust, as it refrained from any reference to the background of terrorism that triggered Israel's decision regarding the temporary removal. The 1 February decision provides for the return of all excluded persons in stages before the end of the year. The Government announced that 101 may return immediately. I believe that the review process taking place now may result in granting permission for an early return of some additional deportees.

We have previously stated that the deportations of December 1992 were unprecedented and exceptional and now, as negotiations resume, the Israeli government has no plans to resort to further deportations; naturally, however, Israel—like all other nations—must retain its inherent power to take all necessary lawful steps to protect its people. We hope and expect that Palestinians will make a good faith effort to maintain calm and avoid violence against Israel.

The important thing now is to return to the negotiations and to get down to substance. Real progress toward peace is possible and desired. I am confident that, when the negotiations resume, additional measures by both sides can be undertaken to create a positive environment—free of violence and threats—for peace and reconciliation.

Prime Minister Welcomes Return to Talks

TA2204050793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has welcomed yesterday's decision by the Arab parties to resume their participation in peace talks next week.

In a statement issued last night, Rabin stressed that Israel has no plan to resort to further deportations, but he did not rule out the option. The prime minister expressed the hope that the Palestinians will make efforts to maintain calm and avoid violence against Israel. He said after negotiations resume additional measures can be taken by both sides to create a positive environment.

The prime minister will meet today with the Egyptian president's adviser Usamah al-Baz. The Egyptian official arrived in Israel last night accompanied on his flight from Cairo by Environment Minister Yosi Sarid. Al-Baz told Qol Yisra'el he is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to Prime Minister Rabin.

Rabin on Terrorism From Lebanon; Peace Talks

TA2204064493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Hayim Zissowitz and political correspondent Shlomo Raz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning to you, to the listeners, and particularly to the residents of the settlements along the border with Lebanon.

[Zissowitz] With your permission, we would like to start with this issue and then proceed to discuss the peace

talks. Do Israel and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have the means to ensure that peace is restored in the Galilee?

[Rabin] I believe and hope so. At the same time, one must bear in mind that the problem of terror aimed at Israel from Lebanon was not uprooted even after three years of war in Lebanon. Quite the contrary, instead of the Palestinians who had limited force the enemy we face now is Hizballah, a radical Islamic Lebanese force which wants to hurt Israel. It aims the bulk of its military activities against SLA [South Lebanese Army] and IDF troops in the security zone, but under certain circumstances it allows itself to strike at Israel too. In addition, Hizballah—just like all other radical Islamic bodies—has a political goal. Its main political goal is to disrupt any chance of going ahead with the peace talks and definitely bar the attainment of peace.

[Zissowitz] Do you consequently think that as the peace process continues this radical force, Hizballah, will step up its attacks on Israel?

[Rabin] I do not know whether it will step up its attacks, but it will certainly not stop its activities. There definitely are local reasons for the katyusha attacks yesterday and last night in which dozens of rockets were fired, but I would not rule out the possibility that the intensity of the fire is also linked to yesterday's events; that is, the decision of the Arab countries and the Palestinians to return to the peace talks.

[Zissowitz] In an article he publishes today, Yosi Peled, a former commander of the Northern Command, says that Israel made a mistake when it allowed Hizballah to return to villages in south Lebanon from which they can attack the Western Galilee and the Galilee Panhandle with katyushas.

[Rabin] I appreciate Major General Yosi Peled, the former commander of the Northern Command, but as he probably remembers the height of Hizballah's attacks and takeover of SLA positions occurred during his tenure. It was impossible then, just as it is impossible today, to prevent Hizballah from infiltrating villages north of the security zone.

[Zissowitz] In the framework of the peace talks which will resume next week, will Israel demand from Syria and Lebanon that they exert their influence as well as their military might in those areas to prevent further katyusha attacks?

[Rabin] We are not asking others to act for us. We, the State of Israel and the IDF, are responsible for the safety of the inhabitants of the Galilee. At the same time, we tell anybody ready to listen that in the event of an attack against us we retain our freedom to act in order to uphold security along the northern border regardless of the peace talks.

[Raz] In the statement you released yesterday in anticipation of the resumption of the peace talks you hope agreements will be attained. Do you think some kind of agreement will be attained both with the Syrians and the Palestinians in the current round of talks? Will a breakthrough be made in this round of talks?

[Rabin] We are determined to pursue the peace talks, to exhaust the chances of attaining agreements either with the Palestinians or the Syrians, with anybody able to reach an agreement with us. These peace talks are based on a format providing for simultaneous talks with more than one Arab element, a format which has to date—from 1949 to 1979—not engendered any agreement. We inherited the format of the Madrid conference, along with its limitations. Still, we will try to do the maximum, even with this format. We have seen the limitations inherent in simultaneous negotiations with all the Arab elements who usually fall into line with the most extreme element. We did not have that problem in all the negotiations in the past which led to the armistice agreements in 1949, the first disengagement agreements in 1974 and the second disengagement agreements in 1975, the Camp David accords and the peace treaty with Egypt in 1978 and 1979. As is known, from 1979 to this day no significant agreement has been signed between an Arab country and Israel.

[Zissowitz] The Syrians' eagerness—as I would describe their behavior—to return to the negotiating table and the pressure they exerted on the other partners, including the PLO, show that the Syrians hope to come out of this round of talks with practical results. Is there any basis for this hope?

[Rabin] We all hope that the upcoming talks will lead to practical results, but this depends on both sides. An agreement cannot be attained at the wish of one side only. The Israeli Government spelled out the range of its possibilities, which has been reflected in the negotiations with the Arab delegations to date and in our dialogue with the Americans.

[Raz] What is the range of possibilities with regard to the Palestinians? You hinted in your statement that there may be other moves once the negotiations resume. I take that to be a reference to a package of gestures toward the Palestinians.

[Rabin] My statement is a recap of our talks with the U.S. secretary of state during his visit in Israel in February. The contents of the statement were concluded at that time, and nothing has changed since then. I am open to discussions, but I am not committed to any additional gestures.

[Zissowitz] Was ending the closure of the territories presented to Israel as a precondition for the Arabs' return to the talks?

[Rabin] The issue did not come up at all. In my opinion, the actual significance of the closure is that it prevents Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza from moving freely into Israel. This decision was made solely based on security considerations. I think it attained the goal of

restoring a sense of security to Israelis within the boundaries of the sovereign State of Israel and Jerusalem in the three weeks it has been in effect. Of course, we expected the closure to create some security difficulties inside the territories by the very fact that most of the 120,000 Palestinians who used to work in Israel can no longer do that, and because of economic problems, particularly a shortage of workers. It turned out that Israel's economy, particularly in agriculture and construction, largely depended on the work of Arabs from the territories. We are trying to overcome those difficulties. The closure will continue. Nobody will tell us when to end it. I intend to go on with it.

[Zissowitz] Will it last months?

[Rabin] I do not want to set any deadlines at the moment. At the same time, the closure will not preclude an increase in the number of Palestinians allowed to work in Israel, on condition that this is done under control, taking security and other considerations into account. As things stand at the moment, I think that from the security point of view the closure has certainly yielded better results than had been predicted for the majority of the Israeli population living within sovereign Israel.

[Raz] Sir, the question of the deportations largely hindered the resumption of the peace talks. How many other deportees will be allowed to return, in addition to the 101 deportees you have already decided upon?

[Rabin] I have said on more than one occasion that the deportation of the 415—or even their temporary removal in the wake of the compromise agreement I made with the U.S. secretary of state—was an unprecedented act which no other Israeli government in the last 20 years had dared do. Moreover, from the time of the Madrid conference until I formed the government, the Likud government did not deport even one Palestinian even though there were murders, riots, and other incidents. We made this move, and I am convinced it was a right one. At the same time, we announced that at this point we do not have any specific or concrete plans to carry out deportations. Nevertheless, we retain the right to take any legal measures required by Israel's security. It is no mere coincidence that the statement I issued notes that the deportation of the 415 was legal and was ratified by the Israeli Supreme Court in its capacity as the High Court of Justice.

[Zissowitz] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, thank you very much.

Peres on Resumption of Peace Talks

TA2204083193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Friedman] Sir, only two hours elapsed between the announcement in Damascus about the Arabs' willingness to return to the peace talks and the fall of the first Katyusha rocket in the north. Do you think the proximity of these events was coincidental?

[Peres] First of all, we must get used to the idea that the Arabs are not an homogeneous bloc. There are diverse views among the Arabs, and there are all sorts of Arabs, which is only natural. There is no doubt that there are forces within the Arab camp seeking to destroy the peace process and to prevent the attainment of peace, forces which do not hesitate at all to open fire and shoot in all directions, mainly at Jews but also at Arabs. These are simply the actions of irresponsible elements, and the purpose of peace is to overcome all these forces and elements.

[Friedman] Sir, a peace process being conducted under the pall of possible internal and external terror could lead to a very problematic situation. It could impair our response to terror on the one hand, while on the other hand it could drive away people who are willing to talk to us but are not prepared to endanger their lives or take a stand against the aggression directed at us. How do you see the situation?

[Peres] You described it very well. The peace process is not being conducted in a sterile atmosphere. There are all sorts of pressures in the air and there certainly are all kinds of obstacles in the way. I would reverse the order: it is not that the peace process is being conducted under the pall of terror, but now that the peace process has resumed, terror is being waged under the shadow of the peace process. There is no doubt in my mind that we did not set out on a morning stroll in the woods, but on a process which calls for a great deal of sophistication, occasional zigzags, bargaining, and foreseen and unforeseen difficulties. The main thing is not to lose sight of the goal. In other words, we should determinedly march toward the central goal.

[Mardor] But Israel is still expected to make gestures.

[Peres] Between you and me, the problem is that others do not actually have that much to give. I think this is very hard for Israel because it must give away tangible assets in return for intangible promises about the future. However, that is the way it is because we won all the wars.

[Friedman] Sir, as you know, the Palestinian decision to return to the negotiations was reached made after bitter and pointed deliberations among their ranks. Hanan 'Ashrawi described it as a painful and tortured birth. Do you think that Israel should encourage moderate elements within the Palestinian camp in view of the intrigues and provocations undertaken by the rejectionist front against the peace and against the Palestinian delegates?

[Peres] It goes without saying that Israel should help the forces striving for peace to overcome the others.

[Friedman] How?

[Peres] I would not put it so bluntly, because I am not sure that too big or strong an Israeli embrace will be very helpful. Also, Israel should not conceal its own difficulties. We should not create a situation whereby one side is being pampered, seeing that this might trigger further demands. The Arab difficulties this time were to a large extent pan-Arab. One negotiator said to me: We wanted political assistance from Syria and financial aid from Saudi Arabia, but they each offered us the exact opposite. Saudi Arabia offered us political advice, while Syria gave us financial advice. There is no doubt that the PLO, which is in dire financial straits, was very determined in its effort to get aid from Saudi Arabia, which it did to some extent. They also told the Syrians: What is the matter with you? Al-Asad says he favors peace, but there are about 10 organizations in Damascus constantly preaching against peace. There is even a radio station which broadcasts threats against the negotiators.

Another point is that there is competition within the Arab camp as to who is seen as calling the shots. Naturally, Mubarak is in the best position because he has relations with everybody, but al- Asad wants to prove that the decisions are made in Damascus just as 'Arafat wants to show that they are made in Tunis.

[Friedman] Sir, when will the closure in the territories be lifted? Do the talks resuming on 27 April signal to the Palestinians that the time is drawing near when the closure will be lifted and they are allowed to return to work in Israel?

[Peres] The closure is a very practical matter which must be weighed on a weekly basis. It was not imposed to attain an objective, but to prevent a situation which had been undermining the personal safety of Israelis. In my opinion, this consideration is still valid. Basically, we want the Palestinians to live their own lives while we live our life. It is inconceivable that we should not let them work here, and serve as their policeman over there. That distribution of roles is inconceivable.

[Friedman] The question was not why but when.

[Peres] I say that the when stems from the why. We will ease the conditions the moment we see that the closure can be alleviated and that personal safety can be secured. I do not think this should be declared a priori.

[Mardor] Will this depend on the peace process and the talks?

[Peres] As a rule, we want the mood and the economic situation in the territories to be good. We do not want to impose ourselves on the Palestinians unnecessarily. We should tell the truth on this issue, rather than blur Israel's character. Israel has no vengeful designs toward any innocent people in the Arab world. Israel does not want to tighten the yoke on the population. We are not like that at all. We do what we do only when it is really necessary, and our actions are carefully measured. We are not out to play the macho man, this is not a movie. If we want people to understand us, let them see us for what we really are: A responsible country with humanitarian considerations, with a commitment not to hurt people who have done nothing wrong, God forbid.

[Mardor] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, thank you very much.

Lubrani Comments on Terror, Peace Process

TA2204091193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of the government's activities in Lebanon and head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with Lebanon, by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor "earlier this morning"—recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] Katyushas were falling on Israeli soil from Lebanese territory until a few hours ago. Yet, next Tuesday, you are scheduled to talk peace in Washington with representatives of the very same country which has failed, or perhaps is not interested, in curbing anti-Israeli terror from its territory. Is this switch possible at all?

[Lubrani] I think it is essential, because we must make every possible effort to advance the peace process, of which Lebanon is a party. As we know, the problems in Lebanon are complex. I do not believe major breakthroughs will be attained immediately upon the beginning of the next round of talks, but I think that not to talk at all would be a very serious mistake.

[Friedman] Is a demand from Lebanon to curb terror directed at us from its territory realistic at this stage of the relations between the two countries, in view of Lebanon's control or rather lack of control over what happens on its soil?

[Lubrani] I think we must persevere. There is no doubt in my mind that if the Lebanese wanted to make an effort to reduce terror from their soil they could have done more. As is known, Lebanon does not exist in a vaccuum. It is part of a broader constellation, mainly influenced by Syria. We should look at the situation from a wider perspective.

[Mardor] When you talk about a wider perspective, should we see the timing of the latest Katyusha attacks as being related to the resumption of the peace talks?

[Lubrani] I have no doubt that this is yet another attempt by those elements who want to disrupt the process. I cannot say we have proof to this effect, but we get the distinct feeling that this is yet another attempt to disrupt the peace process. I think we should not fall into that trap.

[Friedman] Is the resumption of the talks the reason for the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] mild response to this provocation?

[Lubrani] I think that is one reason. The second is that we must be very careful to strike at the elements which engage in terror and fire Katyushas but to abstain from hurting innocent civilians.

[Mardor] Yosi Peled, a former commander of the Northern Command, is quoted in today's papers as saying that terror must be dealt with daily, rather than wait for conflagrations. What do you think?

[Lubrani] That is a very general assertion. One must ascertain what he really means.

[Friedman] Sir, if the purpose of the Katyusha attacks is to derail the political process, one may assume that as the peace process gathers momentum terror along the northern border will also intensify.

[Lubrani] That is a speculation, which may or may not be the case. This is a nerve-racking and dangerous war, and we must live with it. We have no other choice. We must do whatever we can to prevent terror from the north. At the same time, we must not fall into the trap of allowing terror to disrupt the main process going on at present in our political life.

[Friedman] Sir, you mentioned Syria earlier. In view of the recent events in the northern border, do we have any demand from Syria, which could but does not do enough to curb anti-Israeli terror from Lebanese territory?

[Lubrani] I have said on many occasions that if Syria really wanted to reduce the ability of terror elements in Lebanon to operate against Israel it could do that. At this stage, however, Syria apparently does not want to do that.

[Friedman] Sir, thank you very much.

Delegates Leave for Washington 22 Apr

TA2104180593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The first members of Israel's delegation to the Middle East peace talks leave for Washington tomorrow. The team to negotiate with the Palestinians is led by cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein. The decision to leave immediately follows an official statement from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that the negotiations are to resume on Tuesday, 27 April. [passage omitted]

Within days of the bilateral talks resuming, two of the multilateral committees are also due to convene. Invitations were received in Jerusalem this evening for the water commission to meet in Rome in six days time, and for the economic cooperation committee in Geneva in two weeks time. [passage omitted]

Negotiator Discusses Upcoming Peace Talks

TA2104174093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador in Washington and head of the negotiating team with Syria, by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Friedman] I understand that you, like us, listened attentively to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's speech at his Washington news conference, which is still going on. My first question refers to something Christopher did not say. The Palestinians claim that the Americans promised them a U.S. commitment to renew the direct dialogue with the PLO by June, and that that is what drove them back to the talks. Do you know anything about this?

[Rabinovich] No, I do not know anything about that, and I find it hard to believe that such a promise was made without us knowing about it. I can, however, understand that in a situation where there are differences among the Palestinians about returning to the talks, there are those who want to wave achievements. I would view that report within such a context.

[Mardor] There is also talk that among the promises made was one to return the deportees earlier than agreed upon. That was also hinted at in Mubarak's message to the Palestinians. Do you know something about that?

[Rabinovich] I believe that now that the Palestinian and Arab announcement about a return to the talks has been made, we will pay closer attention to appeals, or some sort of gestures. If, however, such things are to happen, I believe the Israeli Government is the one that will want to consider them; and if there is to be anything, the government will want to be the one to announce it.

[Friedman] Unofficially, we can assume that the Palestinians already know what gestures Israel will make toward them although Israel has promised that formally these things will be put on the table when negotiations are resumed.

[Rabinovich] I think that the Palestinians can guess where there is a chance that their appeals will find an attentive audience, but in the final analysis, we are not dealing only with a ceremony. There are real negotiations, and the main point is that things are taking place between us and the Palestinians around the negotiating table.

[Mardor] Prof. Rabinovich, did you learn anything new from Warren Christopher's remarks, or is everything known to us?

[Rabinovich] I believe that what is called the package, in other words, the arrangements which were to have enabled the resumption of the negotiations, was decided on 1 February. Some cosmetics were added during the

week, but in general, that is the package, and nothing of significance has been added to it.

[Friedman] This morning we heard reports from Jerusalem that despite that agreement, the negotiations in Washington will be resumed on 2 May because of the need for preparatory talks with the Americans, and because Remembrance Day for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] fallen and Independence Day fall very close to the agreed upon date for the talks. Can you give us a clear date for the resumption of the talks?

[Rabinovich] The date for the resumption of the talks is 27 April. The Arabs suggested 26 April, which is Independence Day, and the Americans and we said immediately that it must be the 27th. There is no reason to postpone the talks until early May. Preparatory talks, at least from our viewpoint, will be held throughout the week. We can start on 27 April, when everybody should be ready. I believe that once the Palestinians have handed the Americans an official and written announcement, it would be very, very embarrassing, not for the Americans and not for us, but for the Palestinians and the Arab world, if the talks are not resumed on 27 April.

[Mardor] Prof. Rabinovich, as the person heading the delegation to the talks with Syria, do you forecast any change due to the Syrian-Palestinian rapprochement and the ending of the rift between al-Asad and 'Arafat?

[Rabinovich] I do not think it has to have any repercussions. I think that 'Arafat got what he wanted since al-Asad, after a very long period, agreed to invite him to visit, but the basic reasons for the tension between the two sides have not disappeared and might even have become sharper. I believe the Syrians wanted to return to the talks and that they held up their return because they took the Palestinians into consideration, and that caused them some embarrassment in their ties with the United States. The question that has to be asked when looking into the future is: Will there be Syrian freedom of maneuver or freedom of negotiation in view of their sticking to the Palestinians? In earlier stages of the talks, we stressed the need for agreements to stand on their own feet. Honoring the overall Madrid format calls for each track to have its own life, and I think that the Syrians are aware of our sensitivity to that. I assume that they will not want to endanger their interests by sticking too close to the Palestinian issue.

[Friedman] The timetable decided on by Israel—nine months for an agreement with the Palestinians and an accord with Syria by the end of 1993—has been derailed because of the deportee affair and in its wake, the stalemate in the negotiating process. Can you give us a new timetable?

[Rabinovich] No, I would not like to present timetables. I think that first there have to be preparatory talks, and the talks themselves have to start to learn what the intention of the other side is and what the chances are since at least 50 percent of the equation is decided by the other side. I think that we can make fast progress with the Palestinians—not on an overall agreement, not to a finishing line, but real results—if the Palestinians respond directly to our proposals on the establishment of autonomy institutions and do not call for changes in the rules of the game. In reference to Syria, we earlier spoke about an agreement in 1993; the reference was not to an overall agreement, but that during 1993 we can, from our viewpoint, reach an initial agreement which will put the negotiations with Syria on a new basis. Despite the disruption in the timetable, that is still possible.

Youth Killed, 30 Injured in Gaza Camp Clashes

TA2104130293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Muhammad Abu-Shawwish, a 16-year-old resident of the al-Nusayrat refugee camp, was killed this morning by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' fire. Residents of the camp reported that he was shot in the head and taken to a hospital in Gaza where he died of his wounds. His body was snatched from the hospital. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that, according to reports by locals, today some 30 residents were injured in al-Nusayrat in clashes with soldiers of a lookout post that was set up in the camp earlier this morning.

This morning near the al-Duhayshah refugee camp, a local youth who had been throwing rocks at an IDF unit was injured by IDF soldiers' fire. He was taken for treatment to a Bethlehem hospital.

Two Killed, 'More than 50' Wounded in Gaza Unrest

TA2204045693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Two Palestinians were killed by Army fire in the Gaza Strip last night. Fifteen-year-old Muhammad Abu-Shawish was shot during rioting in the al-Nusayrat camp, and 15-year-old Wahil Sa'id from Gaza city died from wounds sustained during clashes in the al- Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. More than 50 residents were wounded in the worst day of clashes in the strip since the closure went into effort.

IDF Northern Commander Promises Action if Needed

TA2104192793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Interview with Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, by Moti 'Eden, "at the northern border"—live]

[Text] ['Eden] Today we had more than 20 Katyushas, most falling within Israeli territory, and terrorists attacking the Hasbayya area. The chief of staff talked about wise responses against Hizballah. Do we have to act wisely or with much more power against such actions?

[Mordekhay] Hizballah, as we know, is trying to escalate matters and to damage the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and its outposts in the main sector. Yesterday, it also tried to hijack and a civilian vehicle containing two SLA soldiers. One is apparently still in Hizballah captivity, and the other escaped and reached our territory. Today, they once again shelled SLA outposts, as a result of which the SLA had to respond against the locations from which shells were lobbed into the security zone and at our targets and positions. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] carried out pinpointed attacks on the areas from which fire was directed at us.

['Eden] Hizballah is shelling civilian settlements.

[Mordekhay] Hizballah lobbed several Katyushas at settlements. I believe that Hizballah sustained a number of losses and casualties in the past few days. As a result of that and other circumstances—some local and some regional—it responded with several Katyusha volleys. We are happy to say that the Katyushas fell in open fields. There were no casualties and no damage. Tonight, we toured various settlements. I must note that the inhabitants of the north are, as usual, sure of themselves and relaxed, and believe that the IDF is doing what it must in this sector. In addition, there was an attempt by a terrorist band to infiltrate into the security zone, and from there possibly to reach our northern border. The SLA foiled the gang's action. They sustained one dead terrorist, and another was captured by the SLA.

['Eden] What is the Northern Command's policy toward Lebanon in the coming days?

[Mordekhay] The policy is to live in security along the northern border. The IDF will take the steps called for toward Hizballah and other terrorist organizations. I am certain that the northern border settlements can go on with their lives despite all the difficulties...

['Eden, interrupting] Are there any special instructions for tonight?

[Mordekhay] The instructions are for the people to stay in the settlements. The security rooms are open, and if there is any need, we will know how to make contact with the right people and take the called for steps. I wish the northern border settlements quiet days and security for the north.

Katyusha Rocket Volleys Land in Galilee

TA2104175093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Excerpt] A number of Katyusha rockets were fired from south Lebanon into Western Galilee and the Galilee Panhandle earlier this evening. No one was hurt, but some slight damage was caused. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami has the details:

[Ben-'Ami] Three volleys of Katyusha rockets were directed at northern Israel this evening. The first came shortly before 1700. Two of the rockets fell near Marj 'Uyun, in the security zone just across the border from Israel, and one crashed down beside a settlement in the Galilee Panhandle. No one was hurt, but electric lines were brought down on the Israeli side, and the blast shattered windows in homes not far from where the Katyusha came down.

About an hour later, more Katyusha rockets fell, this time in Western Galilee, and a third volley also landed in Western Galilee about a half hour after that. There were no reports of any casualties or damage from those two attacks.

There are different theories as to what sparked off the Katyusha shelling. The first volley came in the wake of the announcements from Damascus and Washington that Arab delegations, including the Palestinians, will be returning to peace talks with Israel next week. But it also followed SLA [South Lebanese Army] shelling earlier in the day of terrorist positions north of the security zone. That shelling was said to have been sparked off by terrorist attacks on SLA positions, and reports from south Lebanon said that a man and a woman were killed and nine other civilians wounded from the SLA artillery barrage, which also reportedly destroyed a number of houses. There was a clash between the SLA and terrorists earlier in the afternoon near Hasbayya in the eastern sector of the security zone, in which the SLA killed two gunmen. [passage omitted]

UN Reports 50 Katyushas Fired; IDF Officer Comments

TA2204110793

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 22 April cites "UN sources in Lebanon" as saying that "the terrorists fired 50 Katyusha rockets at the security zone and northern Israel yesterday and that last night's Katyusha attack came in response to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] fire that was directed at villages in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area in the afternoon." The sources are also quoted as saying that "the IDF's response was mild" and that "a total of 80 to 90 shells were counted."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 22 April cites Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Northern Command, as saying "that the IDF's response to the Katyusha attacks was appropriate—to wit, the attacks indeed stopped shortly afterward. He denied reports that the IDF response had been mild, saying that the other side knows very well what the response was, what it caused, and what made the attacks stop. Gen. Mordekhay vowed that Israel will not let the terrorists endanger the lives of our citizens in the north."

Border Police Patrol Commander Facing Dismissal

TA2104114093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] The police commissioner has suspended the four border policemen who were involved in the beating incident yesterday in al- Shati' refugee camp. The police commissioner said that the policemen involved in the affair have been confined to base to preclude any contact between them and Palestinian residents of the territories. This was reported by our correspondent Yo'el Dar.

The police commissioner has also reportedly accepted the recommendation by Border Police Commander Yitzhaq Aharonovich to cashier the commander of the Border Police patrol involved in the incident who is a career service corporal. It was also recommended that the three other policemen, who were assigned the Border police as part of their regular military service, be reassigned to the Army.

The force's commanding officer will be reprimanded, even though he was not present when the incident took place. The Justice Ministry's department in charge of investigating complaints against the police will launch an investigation.

Musa: Arab Participation on 'Right Track'

JN2004165993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Amman from Cairo this afternoon on a brief working visit to Jordan. He will deliver to His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, a message from President Mubarak to His Majesty King Husayn regarding the peace process and other Middle East developments.

In remarks to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Musa said Arab participation in the peace process is on the right track. The ongoing diplomatic efforts, he pointed out, are to elaborate a united Arab position and remove obstacles hampering the peace process. We are about to consolidate a united Arab stance, the Egyptian minister said. His mission in Amman, he added, is to further inter-Arab coordination and crystallize an effective Arab position. He predicted a successful outcome to the peace negotiations resting on the land-for-peace formula and the assurance of the Palestinian people's rights. There can be no peace or stability in the region without these premises becoming realities on the ground, he asserted.

Asked about Egypt's role in circumventing the obstacles to the peace process, Musa said that within the framework of its responsibilities, Egypt is keen to see peace and stability prevail in the region. First and foremost, the Arab foreign ministers' talks in Damascus addressed barriers to the peace process, including the Palestinian deportee affair, he pointed out.

'Amr Musa was welcomed at the airport by Tourism and Antiquities Minister Yanal Hikmat, the Egyptian ambassador in Amman, and various government officials.

Abu-Jabir Deems Decision 'Relief'

JN2104194993 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir returned home after heading Jordan's delegation to the meeting [of Arab foreign ministers] in Damascus. Dr. Abu-Jabir told the "News at Ten" that the Arab parties had discussed such serious issues as Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands and stressed Arab adherence to the principles of the peace process.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Maha al-Sha'ir] What is your reaction regarding the decision on all the parties going to Washington?

[Abu-Jabir] I think our reaction was somewhat of relief because of the seriousness of the matters that were discussed. As you know, this coordinating meeting has been going on since the 28th of last month. It has taken some time, but I think the time was well spent because we are talking about very, very serious matters. We are talking about withdrawal from the holy lands, from Jerusalem; giving the Palestinians their right of self-determination; from Jordanian land; and also from Lebanese lands. So, if it has taken some time, I think the time was well spent. [end recording]

Government Names Delegation to Talks

JN2204061093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22-23 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The government Wednesday named the Kingdom's delegation to the Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks which are due to resume in Washington on April 27.

The delegation will be led by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and will include Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, former Minister, Dr. Fayiz al- Tarawinah, Jordan ambassador to the United States, Mr. Husayn Hamami, Foreign Ministry secretary-general, Dr. Mundhir Haddadin, former head of the Jordan Valley Authority, Dr. Muhammad Bani-Hani, former head of the Jordan Valley Authority, Dr. Shakir 'Arabiyat, Jordan's ambassador to Bahrain, Mr. Nayif al-Qadi and Mr. 'Awn al-Khasawinah, ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry, Mr. 'Abd-al-Ilah al-Kurdi, from the Royal Court, Dr. Musa Burayzat from the Royal Court, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, head of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington, an Armed Forces official, and Dr. Lina Tuqan, a Royal court official who holds a doctorate degree in law.

Columnist Views Decision To Attend Talks

JN2204095693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Apr 93 p 28

[Tariq Masarwah's "Every Day" column: "And We Shall Enter the Magic World of Peace"]

[Text] We have never doubted, not even for a moment, that the Washington talks will continue because the Arab side has no alternatives. That Arab side has for half a century managed to maintain the no-war, no-peace balance despite defeats and disasters, while the other side, the Israelis, were achieving something new all the time, and in both states, the no-war and no-peace. They were always able to keep alternatives. They were able to launch wars, or offer peace—according to their own terms of course—whenever and wherever they wish throughout this homeland that extends from the Pacific Ocean to the Arabian Gulf.

Arab political reality has no alternative but peace because that reality has lost the will to fight, despite the fact that it possess all the means to fight. At the end of the Gulf war, the United States, and Israel, felt it was the right time to dictate the terms, the letters of assurances; and the venue, Madrid; and the shape and number of delegations. The Arabs are all defeated although some of them, who cannot even differentiate between a male and a female camel, think they were victors. Can there be anything better than being the defeated in negotiations expected to have a "happy ending?"

We will all go to Washington after we have secured "unwritten U.S. statements," and so what if they were written; and after we have secured a few oil pennies, which Washington is always prepared to pay so long they do not come out of its own pocket. We shall negotiate over the full peace: Recognition, exchange of ambassadors, open borders, cooperation to tackle the "problems" of environment, water, and refugees. What else?

What else? What could the "one region" comprising the entire region mean but an alternative to the concept of the single nation?

The world we are invited to enter by having peace with Israel is one which we do not know very well. It is, however, very well understood by the United States and Israel.

We now stand surprised to see the "Bush-istic" receptions in Kuwait and surprised to hear that the U.S. aircraft, which violate Iraqi airspace on a daily basis, take off from bases on Arab lands. We will, equally, open our mouths in surprise for what we may see in the future. We will discover that the half-century-old status quo of no-war, no-peace was never as such, but rather a state of no-war, no-war. We shall also discover that peace was established long ago through Washington and that our wars, which we launched against one another, were approved in advance by the other party. This includes the 1967 War.

Abu-Jabir: U.S. Moving in 'Right Direction'

JN2204103593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir this evening returned to Amman after leading the Jordanian delegation to the Damascus coordination meeting of the Arab parties involved in the peace process.

In an interview with our political affairs correspondent, Dr. Abu-Jabir said the results of that meeting were extremely important.

[begin recording] [Abu-Jabir, in progress] ...it was one of the most important decisions we reached because the issues we discussed concern the supreme Arab interests. We talked about Jerusalem, the occupied territories, the Syrian Golan Heights, the occupied Jordanian and Lebanese territory. The meeting took some time. As you know, the coordination meeting started in Damascus on 28 March and continued one way or another until this afternoon.

[Jordan Television Correspondent Kassab Samawi] Following this historic Arab decision, what do you expect from the U.S. sponsor in particular and what do you expect Israel to offer in the forthcoming round?

[Abu-Jabir] We expect the U.S. sponsor in particular to abide by the commitments it has made. We also expect the U.S. sponsor to pressure Israel into fulfilling the commitments it made to the United States.

[Samawi] Mr. Minister: In a press conference today, the U.S. secretary of state made a number of pledges and affirmed general principles concerning the peace process. What do you think of these U.S. comments?

[Abu-Jabir] I think they constitute a step in the right direction. I said at the start of the Madrid process that these negotiations will be long and hard, and we have to expect them to be as such. [end recording]

Papers Praise Outcome of Damascus Meeting

JN2204071793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0345 GMT 22 Apr 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-DUSTUR and SAWT AL-SHA'B today praised the concern demonstrated by the foreign ministers of the Arab cordon states during their meeting in Damascus to maintain the unity of the Arab position and achieve the goal of an honorable, just, and comprehensive peace in the region.

In its editorial, AL-DUSTUR says: It is now clear that the Arab parties involved in the peace process have decided to give peace efforts another chance to succeed in achieving the hoped for goal of a just and comprehensive peace, particularly after the United States has declared its commitment to the full partner role within that process. The Arab parties also want to see these commitments and affirmations by the U.S. administration translated quickly into action.

AL-DUSTUR adds: In all cases, the final statement issued by the foreign ministers of the Arab parties involved in the peace process has achieved the objective expected from such coordination meetings; namely, to preserve the united Arab position, provide the greatest degree of effectiveness for the negotiating Arab parties, and create an Arab driving force to preserve the continuity of the peace process, and ensure its success, on the basis of international legitimacy and the UN Security Council Resolution 242 and 338, including the principles of the non admissibility of the acquisition of land by force and land for peace, and granting the Palestinian people their legitimate political rights.

SAWT AL-SHA'B says: The Arab cordon states have now placed the ball in the U.S. court by emphasizing the need to implement the UN resolutions and take the positions needed to force Israel to go to the negotiations with the aim of establishing the just and honorable peace.

The paper adds: By agreeing to resume the talks next Tuesday, the Arab states not only placed the ball in the Israeli court, but also, and principally, in the U.S. court. The U.S. position is now facing a test. The U.S. administration will have to either fulfill its pledges, activate the negotiations, and boost the peace process in accordance

with the UN resolutions and the principle of land for peace, or lose its credibility and have its intentions doubted by every one.

Paper Calls Talks 'Imposed Peace,' 'Fragile Truce'

JN2104144593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Apr 93 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Imposed Peace Is Fragile Truce"]

[Text] The Arab-Israeli negotiations, Arab-Israeli agreements, mutual Arab-Israeli recognition, and Arab-Israeli declarations concerning an end to the state of war and entering peace are nothing more than a small step along a long path, and represent nothing more than a handful of sand or water in the desert or sea. Peace should take into consideration higher and constant pan-Arab interests. According to its signatories, this peace should reflect the opinion and stand of future generations. It seems that the United States and Israel are seeking to establish an imposed peace that would shortly turn into a fragile truce. They also seek to impose a settlement that does not go beyond being based on a fait accompli.

The results of Arab-Israeli negotiations during the past eight rounds and statements preceding the ninth round indicate that the Americans and Israelis only desire continuous negotiations. Washington announced this desire when it talked about the need to stop counting rounds and concentrate on one continuous round of negotiations that would stop for a week or a month at a time before resuming. Even though no progress has yet been made, there is no need to give the results of these previous rounds any value since the negotiating process is based on international legitimacy and Resolutions 242 and 338, which stipulate a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Meanwhile, Israel still refuses to refer to the issue of withdrawal.

No one rules out that Arab and Israeli negotiators will reach a peace agreement. However, everyone realizes that struggle for a land, an existence, and a future cannot end by just signing a piece of paper, thus leaving behind rivers of blood and decades of suffering and tragedy which Israel continues to inflict on the Arab homeland. The Egyptian-Israeli experiment with such a peace is clear to everyone, despite claims from here or there that it is a well-established, firm, and lasting peace. If, for many reasons, it seems that all Arabs, except the Palestinians, will achieve an unjust peace, then it is ridiculous to imagine that the Palestinian people will achieve such a peace—one in which they will have no homeland or state and one that has not yet been defined.

U.S. Urged To Lift 'Siege' on al-'Aqabah

JN2004112893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Apr 93 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Arrogance of Power Against the Port of al-'Aqabah"]

[Text] In a spirit of arrogant imperialism, the U.S. naval forces stationed at the Tiran Straits in the Red Sea continue to tighten their undeclared siege on the Port of al-'Aqabah. In the name of the UN Security Council and its unjust resolutions these forces are tightening the grip on Jordan's only sea link with world countries.

The U.S. naval forces are returning to this denounced practice against Jordan without any declared justification and even without any false accusations. This is especially so since Jordan has responded to those unjust UN resolutions and pledged to fully comply with and implement these resolutions as certified by diplomats from the United Nations and Western countries as well as U.S. diplomats themselves.

From this premise, we consider all these practices by the U.S. Navy, which demonstrate a complete arrogance of power and narrow-mindedness, a reminder to us all that the Gulf war led by the United States two years ago is continuing. It is also a reminder that Washington does not want us to forget what the allied forces did to our nation and what has been committed by its legions against the present and future of all Arabs.

We, in Jordan, are bravely combating all the social and economic effects of the war on our country, society, and national economy. We can only explain such conduct by the U.S. Navy against the sole Jordanian sea port as an attempt at political blackmail aimed at increasing the burden on Jordan and preventing it from overcoming the enormous adverse effects of the U.S. war in the Gulf on our economy and society.

Hence, we cannot ignore the U.S. naval forces' return to tightening the undeclared siege against Jordan. Moreover, we cannot remain silent over such action. We fearlessly call on the United States to lift its undeclared siege against our sea port and to stop such practices, which are unacceptable and lack even the minimum flimsy justification.

Deportee Spokesman Rejects Resumption of Talks

NC2104161393 Paris AFP in English 1518 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, April 21 (AFP)—Palestinian deportees rejected an Arab decision Wednesday to resume peace talks with Israel next week and accused the PLO of "selling our cause," a spokesman said.

"The cause of the deportees has been sold for a fistful of dollars offered by Arab states to the Palestine Liberation Organisation," spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi told reporters in the no man's land in south Lebanon where the Palestinians have been stranded since December.

He was referring to talks Monday in Cairo between PLO political department chief Faruq Qaddumi and Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al- Faysal on resuming Saudi financial aid to the PLO, frozen because of it's pro-Iraq stance in the Gulf war.

"The Palestinian delegation will also bear full responsibility for Arab participation in the negotiations because the Arabs had said they would not resume talks if the Palestinians did likewise," he said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said Wednesday in Damascus that Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians were ready to return to peace talks with Israel in Washington on April 27, after receiving U.S. guarantees.

"American guarantees are useless because Israel will refuse to comply," an-Rantisi said.

The eighth round of negotiations broke up in Washington on December 17 as Israel expelled 415 Palestinian fundamentalists to Lebanon, where some 396 deportees are still stranded.

The Palestinian delegation had until Wednesday refused to return to the negotiating table until a solution was found to the deportations.

Syrian President Briefs al-Hirawi on Talks Decision

NC2104180693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] A report just in from the newsdesk: Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has telephoned President Ilyas al-Hirawi and briefed him on the Damascus meetings and the background to the decision made by the foreign ministers of the Arab countries involved in the peace process. The decision was based on current regional developments and the expectations the Arabs are waiting for to ensure the success of the peace conference.

Buwayz, Delegation Return From Damascus 21 Apr

NC2104193793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and his accompanying delegation returned to Beirut at 1930 today after representing Lebanon in the coordination meeting of the Arab parties involved in the peace talks, which ended in Damascus today.

Prior to his departure from Damascus, Buwayz and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam held a one-hour meeting about Lebanese and regional issues and the peace talks.

Hizballah Official Criticizes Peace Talks

NC2204074393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Commenting on the continuing aggression by the Zionist enemy army and its agents against the southern towns, Shaykh Nabil Qawuq, member of the Hizballah Shura Council in the south, has said that the Lebanese people, particularly the residents of the south, were expecting the government to rectify its course by giving priority to supporting people's steadfastness. But instead of doing that, the government defied the will of the steadfast southerners by announcing its participation in the ninth round of the negotiations while Israel is proceeding with its killing of children, women, and old men, and persisting in its air, ground, and naval attacks against civilians.

If the government had opted to steer clear of the people's concerns, he said, the Islamic Resistance will continue the battle of liberation and the defense of the south. It will not abandon its right to retaliate in a manner that ensures an end to the aggression. The enemy will not stop shelling civilian villages unless they pay a heavy price for it.

Hizballah Sets Up Military 'Shadow Command'

NC2204103793 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Reliable security sources have said that Hizballah has introduced substantial changes to its military and security command in the south in the past few weeks. The aim was to set up a shadow command hiding behind the already familiar faces, who ostensibly kept their posts but actually and organizationally had their powers suspended.

The sources say the new shadow command, or the rear command as it is known within the party, has been actively playing a military and security role for weeks, unbeknownst even to a large portion of the party's rank and file.

The sources say that the rear command is directly linked to Hizballah's high-ranking leaders. It consists of many members, with three or four of them sometimes assigned to one military or security job.

Explaining the tactic, the sources say Hizballah is trying to learn from the experience of previous years. Israel managed to score many security infiltrations of Hizballah, which resulted in the killing and kidnapping of scores of its cadres, notably the party's Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi.

With these changes to its logistic command in the south, the sources believe, Hizballah is betting on a large-scale obscurity campaign to protect the real cadres executing the party's military and security activity in the south.

Two Killed, 4 Wounded in Israeli Shelling

NC2104114593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Security in the south has noticeably deteriorated for the second day today. Several villages and towns came under heavy and concentrated shelling at 1030 today. The shelling was directed at the villages and towns of Humin al-Fawqa, Mlita, Jarju', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and 'Arab Salim. The home of Dr. Hasan 'Ali Hasan was damaged. The shelling of Humin al-Fawqa, which damaged three houses belonging to Muhammad Jum'ah, Muhammad Shuraym, and Jihad Jum'ah, was accompanied by intensive sorties by low-flying Israeli warplanes.

The mad, feverish shelling resumed at 1200 today, wounding four people in Jba'. They are Muhammad Hasan Duhayni, Maryam Duhayni, Fawziyah Duhayni, and Khudur Muruwwah. At 1245 today, the enemy resumed its concentrated shelling of 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju', Humin al-Fawqa, and 'Ayn Qana.

A short time ago we learned that the shelling of Humin al-Fawqa left two people dead. They are Nazih 'Allush, 65, and a man from the Jum'ah family. Fires broke out in several houses.

The enemy shelling of the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages last night wounded six people, three seriously.

Responding to this mad escalation by the enemy, the Lebanese Army, at 1115 today, shelled enemy and agent positions in Sujud, Bi'r Kallab, and other areas. Our correspondent says that the Army fired over 30 155-mm artillery shells on enemy positions.

Israeli Helicopters Hit Kafra, Yatar

NC2104154693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1534 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Our border strip correspondent has just informed us that Israeli helicopters strafed Kafra and Yatar shortly after 1800 today. He said several rockets were fired toward Israel a short time ago.

Israeli Overflights, Shelling Reported

NC2204055493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] According to the latest reports from south Lebanon, Israeli warplanes flew over the south at dawn today, firing flares over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah. The aircraft continued their flight over the region until 0500 today. The towns of Tulin, Kafra, Yatar, Majdal Silm, and Qabrikha came under artillery barrage before midnight last night.

Resistance Claims Attacks, Capture of SLA Member

NC2204070793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has issued a statement on an operation in the south yesterday. It says: For the second time in less than 24 hours, the Islamic Resistance launched a fierce lightning attack against the Sujud and Bi'r Kallab positions at 1745 yesterday, destroying a Merkava tank that was shelling our steadfast kinfolk in our peaceful villages from the Sujud position. The mujahidin also succeeded in inflicting damage on the fortifications of the Bi'r Kallab position.

In an earlier statement yesterday, the Islamic Resistance announced the capture of agent Elie Nicholas Abu-Kasm of the Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] in an attack against a joint Zionist-Lahdist patrol along the 'Aramta-al-Rayhan road.

The enemy radio said that more than 10 other Katyusha rockets fell on the Galilee Panhandle yesterday evening, damaging several buildings, bringing down electricity lines, and causing fires. It gave no other details.

REUTER said that an agent militia patrol clashed with a resistance group in Hasbayya at noon yesterday. It said a resistance man named 'Abd-al-Karim As'ad, who is a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was martyred, and that the militia captured another man, a Jordanian named Mahir Hasan.

Fatah Official's Car Blown Up 20 Apr

NC2104115393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Within the framework of the conflict between the Fatah Movement—the Revolutionary Council led by Abu-Nidal and the Fatah Movement led by Yasir 'Arafat, REUTER quoted a security source in Tyre as saying that an explosive charge last night destroyed the car of the Fatah Movement official in al-Rashidiyah. The agency gave no further details.

Peace Talks Opportunity for 'Honorable Peace'

JN2204102893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Responsibility of Others After the Positive Arab Position," AL-BA'TH says: In light of the decision, made after many long sessions, by the Damascus coordination meeting of the parties directly involved in the peace process, the Arabs, once again, show eagerness to give a momentum to the peace process despite Israeli intransigence and obstacles which still prevent the launching of the process in accordance with the agreed bases.

AL-BA'TH adds: The decision made in Damascus yesterday to participate in the ninth round of peace talks scheduled to convene in Washington not only expresses a genuine Arab desire to work toward a just and comprehensive peace in the region, but also expresses a high feeling of responsibility toward peace.

AL-BA'TH says: The Arabs' decision yesterday bounced the Israeli rulers' accusations right back on them, aborted their attempts to stop the peace process and hold the Arabs responsible for this, and prevented Israel from repeating to the world the old dusty saying that the Arabs do not want peace. World public opinion today knows that Israel is responsible for not reaching positive results during the eight rounds of the peace talks. World public opinion also knows that the Arabs accepted the peace process while the rulers of Israel rejected the bases of peace.

AL-BA'TH says that the Arab position declared in Damascus puts a great responsibility on the cosponsors of the peace process, and on the United States in particular. This responsibility is not only toward the Arabs, who accepted the process and its bases, but also toward international legitimacy and all nations.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: No matter what happens, and regardless of circumstances, the Arabs, particularly Syria, will not relinquish their rights or land. Therefore, they will only accept an honorable peace based on justice and on the principles of international legitimacy. The positive steps taken by the Arabs aim at providing a thorough opportunity to attain this peace, which will achieve security and stability in the region. Will the parties to the peace process show a greater responsibility toward peace and the peace process after this big positive Arab stand? This is what the world is waiting to see.

Commenting on the same topic, AL-THAWRAH says: The Arab parties involved in the peace process have reiterated their commitment to establish a just and comprehensive peace based on full implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, calling for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem, and Security Council Resolution 425 calling for unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese territory. The Arab parties have also reiterated their commitment to a comprehensive solution on all fronts and for all parties.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Thus, the Arabs underscore their concern for a just and comprehensive peace. In order to foil Israel's maneuvering, disregard, and deception, the Arab parties called on the cosponsors of the conference to adopt stands and steps that will end Israel's violation of the international legitimacy resolutions.

Radio Says 'Israel Alone' Responsible for Impasse

JN2104152693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Arabs have reiterated their willingness to give the peace process another chance to save it from Israel's intransigence, provocations, and violations. The united Arab position emerging from the coordination meetings in Damascus show that the Arabs are striving for peace and making a genuine effort to see the peace process reach a successful conclusion. Toward that end, the Arabs have pulled out all the stops to clear all the barriers erected by Israel in the path of peace.

The demands made on the cosponsors of the peace conference—the United States in particular—as listed in the statement issued by the Arab foreign ministers' meeting, make it clear that it is up to the United States and Russia to prevail on Israel to bow to international legitimacy, and hold it accountable to the guidelines on which the peace process was launched. Indisputably, Israel alone must take the blame for the impasse the peace process has reached. Neither the Israeli Government nor Prime Minister Rabin can be cleared of culpability by questioning the Arab attitude toward peace, citing the Arab request that the talks be put off for a few days. The blame must be laid at the door of Israel's irresponsible actions, obduracy, provocations, and human rights violations. After all, had Israel bound itself to UN Security Council Resolution 799 on the deportees, lifted the siege on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, desisted from demolishing homes, and called a halt to murders and arrests and other human rights violations, the delay, brief as it is, would have been unnecessary. Had Israel shown itself at the negotiating table over the previous eight rounds to be bound by resolutions of international legitimacy and the principles and guidelines on which the peace process was launched, the Arab interlocutors would not have demanded that before they rejoined the talks they needed a restatement of assurances and promises from the cosponsors of the peace conference.

The Arab demand that the cosponsors move to check Israeli human rights violations, end the deportation practices, see to the repatriation of the deportees, and make Israel end its violations of international legitimacy, clearly emphasizes that should the ninth round end in failure, Israel must be held responsible. It is also a message to world public opinion communicating the gravity of Israel's attitude and stands that threaten to wreck the very foundations of the peace process.

Deliberations, contacts, and talks undertaken by the Arab parties, both with each other and with the U.S. administration during the coordination meeting in Damascus, have signalled that Arab participation in the peace process cannot be taken for granted. They have also signalled that Arab demands must be taken extremely seriously if these negotiations are to lead to the cherished goal of peace. The end result of the Damascus session has been to show that it is pointless to bet on a fragmented Arab position or to make progress on a given Arab front at the expense of another. This is because the peace process itself and the objective of comprehensive peace on all fronts of the conflict, as well as Arab interests, stand to gain from a united Arab posture.

Defense Minister Meets Russian Air Force Commander

JN2004173593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense, received at his office at noon today General [Viktor Alekseyevich] Prudnikov, commander of the Russian Federation's Air Defense Force, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by the commander of the Air Force, who holds the rank of major general; the deputy commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, who also holds the rank of major general; as well as several senior officers of the General Command of the Army and Armed Forces.

The Russian delegation's visit falls within the context of efforts to enhance relations between the two friendly countries.

Afghanistan

Tehran: Kabul Groups Sign Cease-Fire Agreement

LD2104204993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Two Afghan groups that have been fighting in western Kabul, have signed a cease-fire agreement. According to a report by the our correspondent in Kabul, on the basis of the agreement a commission formed from the two involved groups will monitor the cease-fire in Cheheldokhtaran and the area to the west of Dasht-e Barchi. The two warring groups had accused each other of violating an earlier cease-fire. According the the report, in clashes during the past three days in western Kabul there have been several casualties.

Meanwhile, the third consignment of humanitarian aid from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the people in northern Afghanistan has been distributed in that country's northern areas. The aid, which includes four tons of foodstuffs—including flour, rice and cooking oil—was distributed among Muslims in Mazarsharif city. Early today an Iranian C-130 aircraft carrying nine tonnes of medicines arrived in the city.

Presidential Decree Rescinds Officers' Retirement

LD2104203093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] The press office of the Presidency reported to BIA that on the occasion of the first anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the victory of the Islamic revolution, esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has issued a decree on the rehabilitation of those civil servants and army officers who retired before 28 April 1992 who wish to continue their service. On the occasion of the first anniversary of the Islamic revolution and for its human goals and policies, the Islamic State of Afghanistan approves the following:

1. To rescind the retirement of those civil servants and army officers who were retired before 28 April 1992, and after this date, before completing their statutary term of service.

2. Related organs are assigned to take steps to rescind the retirement of the persons mentioned in Article 1 of this decree provided they have not reached the legal retirement age and are ready to resume their service.

3. This decree comes into force as from the date of receiving assent and will be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan

Bangladesh

Paper Views Repatriation of Stranded Pakistanis

BK2104141993 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 14 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Repatriation of Biharis"]

[Text] Exclusive talks were held between Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on the repatriation of stranded Pakistani nationals from Bangladesh. The Pakistani premier gave the assurance that the nationals of his country popularly known as "Biharis" would be speedily repatriated.

The joint communique issued last year during the visit of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to Pakistan pledged that the 238,000 stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh would be taken back. The communique further stated that at least 3,000 families would be repatriated in December. But only few stranded Pakistanis were taken last year.

Many people have expressed doubt whether the assurance given by the Pakistani premier will be honored, citing that the provisions of last year's joint communique was also not implemented.

It may be recalled that in accordance with the provisions of the Mujib-Bhutto accord of 1973 all Pakistani nationals stranded in Bangladesh are to be repatriated. But it is unfortunate that the repatriation was suspended after Pakistan took back 120,000 Biharis. On the other hand, the Bangladeshi nationals stranded following the independence of Bangladesh were all repatriated within three years. In the past two decades, these stranded Pakistanis have been languishing in the refugee camps of Bangladesh. Earlier, they had fled from the communal violence in India and took refuge in the former East Pakistan. But after the independence of Bangladesh they opted for Pakistan and became its citizens. An agreement was signed in 1973 for their repatriation. It is not understandable why Pakistan is not taking them back. It is an independent country and is not ravaged by war like Palestine or Bosnia. So, why then are its nationals languishing in the refugee camps of another country.

Severe frustration prevails among the stranded Pakistanis as nothing has been done to repatriate them even after the issuance of the joint communique last year. Many of them have even expressed the desire to commit suicide. For this reason this humanitarian problem should be urgently resolved. Observers believe that assistance of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees should be sought for their repatriation and rehabilitation.

It may be mentioned that last January the issue of stranded Pakistanis came up for discussion in the Pakistan parliament. During the discussions, some opposition members of the parliament objected to the repatriation alleging that several agents of the RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] have merged with these stranded people. In this connection it may be mentioned that

every country has laws for punishing spies if the charge against them can be proven.

It is expected that the Pakistan Government will not be misled by such remarks. We hope the repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis will start soon in accordance with the assurance of the Pakistani premier and the pledge made in the joint communique.

Japanese Delegation Plans Investment Programs

BK2004150693 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Japan has master plans and detailed programmes for Asian countries including Bangladesh to create new industries that will earn foreign exchange. The Japanese investors are steadily coming to Bangladesh following the reforms made by the government.

This observation was made by Mr. Kikuo Ikeda, leader of the Japanese delegation at a joint press conference held at a local hotel on conclusion of the sixth meeting of Bangladesh-Japan Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation. The press conference was also addressed by Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, FBCCI, and chairman of the sixth meeting of the Joint Committee, Mr. Masao Sawaki, deputy leader of the Japanese delegation. Also present at the press conference were Mr. Morshed Khan, Chairman of the Pacific Group of Industries; Mr. Rashidul Hassan, member of the Bangladesh delegation; and Mr. M. Younus, president, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Speaking at the press conference, Mr. Mahbubur Rahman said that the flow of the Japanese investment in Bangladesh was still low compared to other South Asian countries. He however, hoped that the Japanese investors would take interest in investing in Bangladesh as the conditions were favorable to guarantee their investments. He said that the Japanese delegation had visited the Export Processing Zone [EPZ] in Chittagong and the upcoming EPZ in Dhaka to explore the possibilities for investment.

Replying to a question, Mr. Kikuo Ikeda said that the Japanese investment in Bangladesh so far totalled 65 million U.S. dollars. Twelve Japanese companies were operating in Bangladesh. Of them six were located in the Chittagong Export Processing Zone. He expressed the hope that more investment from Japan would come to Bangladesh. He however, suggested for further improvement of the opportunities in the Export Processing Zone and better infrastructural facilities for investment.

Replying to a question, Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, leader of the Bangladesh delegation, said that the sixth meeting of the Bangladesh-Japan Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation which just concluded in Dhaka was not mere a ceremonial one. He termed the meeting as effective and appropriate form.

Answering to the queries of newsmen, Mr. Masao Sawaki, deputy leader of the Japanese delegation pointed out some of the disadvantages for the direct Japanese investment in Bangladesh. He singled out power disruption as the main drawback. He also said compared to Chittagong, Bangkok and Jakarta were closer to Japan and had better transportation facilities. Transportation would cost the commodity price higher in Bangladesh, Mr. Sawaki observed. He said ASEAN countries were enjoying better facilities than Bangladesh following the geographical proximity and infrastructural build-up. Bangladesh had the disadvantage of location to attract increased flow of Japanese investment, he added. But the individual companies of Japan had the option to make investment in Bangladesh, he hoped.

The deputy leader of the Japanese delegation said they would send more survey teams to Bangladesh to explore new areas of investment by the Japanese companies.

Replying to a question, Sawaki said the Japanese businessmen were less interested to import leather and leather products from Bangladesh. Bangladesh, he pointed out, was not the only source of cow hides. About the import of shrimp from Bangladesh, the Japanese delegation leader said many ASEAN countries were technologically superior to Bangladesh in the processing of cultured shrimp.

He disagreed that Japan had tbe protected market and said that the Japanese import market was more open than the United States and tbe European markets.

Japan, he said, would not put restrictions to apparels, food products, and cotton textiles. Bangladesh, he said, could make markets for their products if it could compete with others on the basis of quality.

Before the press conference, agreed minutes of sixth meeting of Bangladesh-Japan Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation was signed. Mr. Kikuo Ikeda, leader of the Japanese delegation and Mr. Rashidul Hassan, member of the Bangladesh delegation signed the agreed minutes on behalf of their respective delegation.

Tbe Bangladesh delegation led by Mahbubur Rahman had 66 members while Japanese delegation had 39 nembers at tbe joint meeting.

India

Minister: Pakistan Implicated in Bombay Bombings

BK2104131293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] The home minister has said that inquiries so far clearly indicate Pakistan's organized support and involvement in the planning and execution of the bomb blasts in Bombay on 12 March. In a statement in the Lok Sabha 'oday, Mr. Chavan said the conspiracy appears to

have been hatched by Pakistan in collaboration with Dawood Ibrahim, a Bombay underworld don based in Dubayy, and the Memon family. He told the house that 20 operators were trained in a camp near Islamabad Airport in handling grenades, ID, explosives, and Kalashnikov rifles. Mr. Chavan informed the house that Ibrahim Abdul Razak Memon—along with other members of his family—has emerged as the pivotal figure behind the blasts. He visited Dubayy thrice in the past, apparently to tie up arrangements with Dawood Ibrahim and Pakistan. A huge consignment of arms and explosives was brought surreptitiously in Raigarh District of Maharashtra on 2 and 3 February, and the arrival was preceded by the visit of one of the agents, (Dawood Mohammad Fanse), to Dubayy in January.

Commentary Urges Naming Pakistan Terrorist State

BK2204045293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Commentary by correspondent S.C. Bhatt]

[Text] Nearly six weeks after the devastating Bombay blasts the central government has made a categorical statement indicting Pakistan. As the Bombay Police speedily and efficiently began unraveling the mystery, it had become crystal-clear that Islamabad was the prime mover behind the highly organized conspiracy.

The Memon brothers headed by Ibrahim Abdul Razak, alias Tiger, played the key role in Bombay. The Dubayy-based mafia don, Dawood Ibrahim, pulled the strings from his safe haven while Pakistan provided the training and other facilities.

However, the government and the official agencies in India were not coming out openly and putting the blame where it belonged. Perhaps the government was hoping that Islamabad would live up to its plighted word and cooperate in sending the Memon brothers back to India to face the consequences of what they have perpetrated. That hope was belied. The dismissed prime minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, went on promising that he had directed the agencies concerned to help find the Memons. On the other hand, several Pakistani spokesmen in Islamabad and Delhi either denied that the Memon brothers were in that country or pretended that India had not given them the requisite information.

The fact that the Inter Service [Intelligence—ISI] agency chief, Lieutenant General Naser, resigned soon after Mr. Nawaz Sharif lost his job showed clearly that Mr. Sharif and the ISI which trained and helped the perpetrators of the blasts in Bombay knew all along what had been done. They also knew where the Memon brothers were. After all, the master would not be unaware of what the fellow conspirators were doing under his aegis.

Better late than never should be the reaction to the home minister's statement in the Lok Sabha yesterday blaming Pakistan for the key role it has played in the terrible blasts which have killed more than 300 persons and caused a lot of destruction. The police in Bombay have done a highly commendable job and opened up the close links between the conspirators and many others including some of the film industry's key players. Now is the chance for police authorities to lay their hands on the underworld dons, their friends in various walks of life, and their foreign aiders and abettors.

The United States has put Pakistan on notice for its activities in support of terrorism. The Bombay blasts which came closely after the New York bomb explosion should convince Washington that Islamabad must be declared a terrorist state without delay.

Two More Arrested in Connection With Blasts

BK2204035693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Bombay Police yesterday arrested two more suspects who received arms training in a foreign country allegedly involved in the recent bomb blasts in the city. With this, 88 suspects have been remanded so far to custody under the provisions of TADA [Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act]. Meanwhile, interrogation of the film star Sanjay Dutt continued for the second day yesterday to ascertain the link between him and the Dubayy-based gangster Dawood Ibrahim.

'High-Level' CIS Defense Delegation Arrives

BK2204090293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] A high-level defense delegation of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] arrived in New Delhi today. The delegation is led by the chief of the Russian Air Force, Colonel General, P.S. Deynekin. During the week-long stay, the delegation will hold talks with the chiefs of Air Force, Army, and Navy besides meeting the defense secretary and calling on the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun. The two sides are expected to discuss a number of issues including the Russian offer of joint development of its Su-54 advanced jet trainer. The issue of supply of spares for the Russian weaponry used by the three services of the country is also likely to come up for discussion. They are also expected to discuss the Russian offer for joint manufacture of long-range interceptors, Su-278, and setting up of assembly plants for MiG-29 aircraft.

Iranian Minister Discusses Economic Cooperation

LD2204094493 Tehran IRNA in English 0728 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] New Delhi, April 22, IRNA—Visiting Iranian minister of heavy industries, Mohammad Nezhad-Hoseynian held separate meetings with the Indian ministers for external affairs, commerce and industry Wednesday in which the two sides underlined the need for improving Indo-Iran bilateral cooperation in economic sector.

The Indian minister for external affairs, Dinesh Singh, discussed with Nezhad-Hoseynian the issues of bilateral imporatance, particularly the boosting of economic cooperation and the implementation of joint industrial projects.

The Iranian minister also laid stress on improving economic relations between the two countries in the abovementioned fields and said that the Islamic Republic had special place for the Indian industry. They also favoured an early implementation of the agreements reached at sixth Indo-Iranian Joint Economic Commission in New Delhi during November last year.

Nezhad-Hoseynian also met the Indian minister of state for commerce, Kamaluddin Ahmed, and the minister of state for industries, Krishna Sahi. Kamaluddin Ahmed told Nezhad-Hoseynian that India was looking at further enhancements in Indo-Iran trade, while Sahi expressed the Indian industrialists' readiness to cooperate with their Iranian counterpart in Kerman power plant, Bafq railway construction at Bandar-e Abbas, and Haftapeh sugercane project.

Nezhad-Hoseynian, who is on a five-day visit to India, arrived here late Monday night. He is leaving for Bangalore today before he departs for Tehran on April 23.

Sudan, Afghan Nationals Abetting Kashmir Militancy

BK2104151693 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 14 Apr 93 p 14

[Text] Jammu, April 13 (PTI)—The Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan, abetting and arming militants in various parts of India has set up special camps to train militants at Aliabad, Kalamulla, Nakyal, Gulpur, and Khuratta in Pak Occupied Kashmir (POK), official sources said today.

According to the sources, senior officers of ISI, including Col. Sarfraz and Major Hammed, who played an important role in training Afghan guerrillas at Chirat, have shifted their headquarters to Muzzafabad and Quetta in POK.

Col. Sarfraz, the sources said, has been made Operational in- Charge for Kashmir and given full command to frame fresh strategy on militancy in Kashmir Valley while Major Hammed is looking after Jammu region and liaison between Kashmiri and Punjab militants.

At present, there are two joint training camps for Kashmir and Punjab militants at Quetta and Gulpur in Nakyal, the home town of the so-called POK Prime Minister, Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, where about 300 Kashmiri, Punjabi and Afghan insurgents are receiving training in high altitude warfare tactics and handling of sophisticated weapons like remote control explosive devices and shoulder to air firing Stinger missiles.

The ISI has also intensified its activities in the valley by strengthening its field units and shifting bases nearer to the LOC [Line of Control], the sources said.

The ISI officers were assigning special tasks to militants, who were hiding near forward defence locations in POK and waiting for a chance to infiltrate into the Kashmir valley.

Quoting the interrogation report of some recently nabbed militants from the border areas, the sources said there was ample evidence that Sudani and Afghan nationals were directly involved in abetting militancy in Kashmir.

Either, they were exploited in the name of "Jihad" or by offering reasonable amounts for attacking military installations or essential supplies in the State, the sources said referring to a recently captured Afghan insurgent from Balnoi area of Poonch district after a brief encounter with the security forces.

Meanwhile, stringent security measures have been taken along the 790-km long LOC by the security forces by laying a multi-tier security system ranging from three to five tiers to foil any attempt of the sneaking militants from POK into the Indian side, the sources said.

The troops have been put on high alert and all the 18 points identified as infiltration routes have been plugged by creating more check points and installing mines at various points, they said.

A constant vigil has been maintained on the developments from across the border and night curfew has already been imposed with the issue of shoot-at-sight orders within five kms of the border belt.

These measures are part of a vigil along the border in the wake of the latest reports that the ISI was planning to infiltrate militants in small groups.

International Dialogue on NPT Urged

BK2104114293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] India has called for an international dialogue to review the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, NPT, to make it an instrument for achieving the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The Indian ambassador, Mr. Satish Chandra, told the United Nations Commission on Disarmament that New Delhi does not believe that partial and unjust measures or punitive action on a selective basis will achieve the desired results. He said [word indistinct] groups and regimes created to impose unilateral restrictions on trade in technology, equipment, and material on discriminatory basis will not prevent nuclear proliferation. Mr. Chandra emphasized that non-nuclear weapon states scrupulously adhere to a policy of nonproliferation despite acquiring a nuclear technology capability and refrain from assisting any other state. But there was free and frantic competition amongst nuclear weapon states in acquiring nuclear [word indistinct] capacity, he said.

Articles Question Indian Defense Policy

Lacks 'Realistic Assessment'

BK2104002893 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 10 Apr 93 p 11

[First of two articles by Pravin Sawhney on the Defense Ministry's annual report: "Defense Policy Overlooks Threat From Sino-Pak Tie-Up"]

[Text] New Delhi—The Ministry of Defence annual report has failed to present a realistic assessment of the regional security environment. Consequently, the stated defence policy is ambiguous, according to defence sources.

As these cardinal issues have been suggested in a diffused way there is little evidence of a discernible direction in arms accretions and upgradations during the year under review compared to the defence build-up of Pakistan and China.

The biggest threat to the regional security environment is from the strengthened Pakistan-China defence cooperation and not from the Pakistan-Iran axis as suggested in the report. This factor alone has largely contributed to the militarisation of Pakistan and subsequent vitiating of the regional arms balance.

Not only both countries (with whom India shares its entire disputed northern arc) have substantially increased their defence budgets, but it is also being done to a purpose. China's conventional arms thrust priority is forces projection in cross border areas and maritime reach. Pakistan is committed to combined efforts in joint operations and force multiplication through selective high priority areas.

Contrary to the myth that the US built up Pakistan's defence capabilities to its existing levels, it is the Islamabad-Beijing nexus which has been responsible for it. In strategic terms, the high point of this cooperation was achieved in 1978 with the inauguration of the Karakoram Highway, which serves as a physical outlet for China into Central Asia through Pakistan. It can serve as a possible route during war and for movement of emergency logistics, especially when Indian troops are sandwiched between Pakistani and Chinese forces in the Siachen glacier region.

The present level of this defence cooperation includes the manufacture of Sino-Pak main battle tank Khalid-2000, overhaul facilities for M1-8 helicopters, supply of Chinese Type 653 armoured recovery vehicles., indigenous production of Red Arrow-8 anti-tank missile, cooperation for overhauling F-6, T-5, PT-6 and A5-ITI aircraft, co-development of K-8 tandem seat, jet basic trainer which recently conducted its maiden successful flight over the Karakoram ranges and induction of 120 F-7P aircraft to replace ageing F-6 aircraft.

While a 300 MW nuclear reactor was supplied by China to Pakistan in 1990, the latter's missile programme is the result of this defence cooperation. The battlefield support and theatre indigenous missiles HATF-I and 11 are reported to have been already integrated into service, unlike India's indigenous missile systems which are still in its development phase.

The reportedly transfered HATF-III missiles to Pakistan are the Chinese M-11 surface-to-surface missiles. China is also assisting in the manufacture of a Pakistani shoulder-fired SAM. Latest technology of multi-mode guidance system, proximity fuze, greater range, speed and accuracy has been passed on by Beijing to make this SAM of the US Stinger class.

The defence report is silent on China's nuclear capabilities and missiles proliferation. China is developing two large three-stage solid propellent ground-launched and mobile systems, DF-31 and DF-41 with ranges of 12,000 km. A second generation SLBM named JL-2 is expected to replace the existing CSS-N-3 missiles by year 2000.

Without tackling the moot issue of disputed border delineations concurrently with seeking tranquility along the Sino-Indo border through the Joint Working Group, only a short-term palliative rather than a permanent solution will be achieved.

Preparedness Affected

BK2104005493 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 11 Apr 93 p 10

[Second of two articles by Pravin Sawhney on the Defense Ministry's annual report: "Poverty of Policy Puzzles Defense Planners"]

[Text] A generalised defence policy statement made in the annual ministry report gives little clue of what is expected of the defence services, thereby affecting their purpose and levels of prepardness, according to sources.

With the stated defence policy objective to promote and sustain durable peace, the defence forces are required to foil attempts ta challenge the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. This pronouncement hardly elaborates how this task of deterrence against internal and external factors is to be accomplished.

Given an over 12,000 km disputed border on both fronts, does it imply that the entire disputed territory is to be held per se indefinitely, or in certain areas military loss of land may be acceptable to gains in certain other vital sectors?

Clear political directions through a comprehensive defence policy alone can assist in the formulation of military doctrines and strategies. This in turn will determine forces levels and degree of preparedness required of the three services.

For instance, the recent government approved "strategies for the nineties and switching of forces is already under flak from amongst the army top brass. While a section of the general staff is against reduction of forces

from the eastern sector against China, most officers are skeptical about the feasibility of actual switching of forces, in the event of war, from the Chinese to the Pakistani front. This is because it involves changes in troops training and equipment holdings, to be done against time.

While piece-meal proposed equipment inductions into the army like the indigenous 5.56 mm rifle and LMG [expansion unknown] and an array of radars are welcome, the priorities set by the perspective planning staff have received little urgency. This has been more on account of decision-making, than financial constraints.

To meet the immediate requirement of 155 mm calibre guns, according to the report, possibilities are under consideration for converting the 130 mm guns to 155 mm calibre. Sources also suggest of a move to procure some British AS90 guns self-propelled guns. Pakistan, on the other hand, with fewer guns than India, has already offset the disparities through two actions. Their emphasis is on accuracy by use of wide range of computers and metereological sounding systems and radars both for motor and gun locating, like ANTPQ 36 and ANTPQ 37. They also have a definitive edge over India in heavy calibre and tracked guns of 155 mm calibre with their strike formations.

The report has confirmed that the main battle tank Arjun is still in its development stage. Its induction into service is expected only by year 2002, as recently stated by the defence minister of state in Parliament.

While the report states that the T-55 tank overhaul programme continued as per schedule, sources disclosed that work on project "Panther" has yet not commenced. This project pertains to the tank modernisation and the main impediment is the pending decision on the tank fire control system. Similarly, while the report confirms that success has been achieved to repower the Vijayanta tanks, it glosses over the fact that project "Bison" for repowering Vijayantas was commenced in 1984 and Vijayantas were to be phased out of service by 1990. How much life then is left in the Vijayantas? With Arjun's proposed induction still nine years away, the report does not mention about project "Rhino", meant for modernisation of the cutting edge T-72 tanks. These include a tank fire control system, a new generation night-sight and allied systems.

While the annual report has suggested that "the navy is expected to perform a peace-keeping role," where and how this will be undertaken has not been elaborated. The navy suffering acute resource crunch has been unable to place a single warship order in the last two years, and its entire modernisation schedule has been gravely affected.

The fleet suffers from a lack of reasonable logistics support and airborne early warning capability, precluding force projection capabilities over great distances. A major drawback with all submarines, unlike those with Pakistan, is lack of anti-ship missiles. Moreover, unlike Pakistan's Exocet carrying maritime patrol aircraft, the Tu-142Ms do not carry anti-ship missiles.

While encouraging decisions have been taken for establishment of Mirage-2000 and MiG-29 aircraft and aeroengines overhauling facilities and some progress is stated to have been made in the air defence ground environment system (ADGES), the air force suffers most on account of required force multipliers and airlift capabilities. Pakistan has added more precision guided munition and laser guided systems in its air force. It has also increased EW pods and specialist weapons for counter air, interdiction and air defence suppression.

The report does not mention of any time frame for urgent long pending acquisitions like the advanced jet trainer and upgradations of MiG-21 his aircraft for the air force.

While economy measures taken by the air force and army as mentioned in the report are praiseworthy, unfortunately most are at the cost of training curtailment. The army has done no formation level exercise in the last three years and air force is understood to have drastically reduced its flying hours.

Iran

Arab League Stance on Islands 'Irresponsible'

LD2204104693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman condemned the irresponsible stance of the Arab League on the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf and termed it as a threat to the security and stability of that sensitive region. He also stressed the principled stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in defending its own territorial integrity.

President Opens 13th CAPLAM Meeting 21 Apr

LD2104122593 Tehran IRNA in English 1207 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—The 13th Conference of Asian and Pacific Labor Ministers (CAPLAM) was inaugurated here Wednesday by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his inaugural speech the president said lack of skilled manpower is a major problem facing the Third World countries and added that the issue should be thorougly discussed in the Tehran conference.

As is evident in its constitutional and labor law, the Islamic republic attaches great importance to the welfare and training of labor force, the president said.

The unemployment rate in Iran has dropped from 15.9 percent in 1989, when the first five year development plan was launched, to 11.4 percent at present, he said.

Elsewhere in his message, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said if the Third World managed to organize and train its labor force and to encourage people to work hard, it could remove many of its problems.

He said the Third World countries are faced with lack of capital, technology and technological knowhow, and the wide gap with the developed countries.

President Rafsanjani expressed hope that the Third World countries would soon solve their problems of labor and manpower in an effort to upgrade their living standards and bridge the gap with the developed countries.

Representatives from 50 countries and several specialized organizations such as the International Monetary Fund, the International Labor Organization, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) are participating in the three day conference.

U.S. 'Propaganda Ploy' on Narcotics Rejected

LD2104124493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Excerpts] In a new propaganda ploy, the United States has announced that it will cancel its financial assistance to Iran for purposes of combatting narcotics.

In its fight against narcotics, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always depended on principled and constructive Islamic policies; and it began this combat right from the start, with support from the people and the families of those who had fallen into the trap of addiction and with the backing and planning of officials. The Islamic Republic of Iran has, up to now, succeeded in achieving substantial results in controlling narcotics and destroying smuggling networks in the cities. Narcotics are not cultivated in Iran at all and narcotics traffickers are sentenced to the most extreme punishments. Last year alone, 55,000 smugglers and addicts were arrested all over the country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran spends a huge amount each year in its fight against the merchants of death and it has, in this connection, also cooperated with regional and international organizations combatting narcotics.

Propaganda of the kind that says the United States has, up to now, assisted Iran financially to combat narcotics, demonstrates Washington's confusion in combatting narcotics in America. Crime and corruption in the United States is so rampant that American statesmen are incapable of confronting in any way such social problems. According to the statistics for 1988, Washington topped the list in the number of murders and use of narcotics was concerned. [passage omitted]

Bearing in mind the Islamic Republic of Iran's all-round combat, the world's countries now admit that Iran has achieved positive results in this field—to the extent that some international gangs, have, over the past two years, changed their international transit routes. The transportation of narcotics is now taking place from the southern parts of the Persian Gulf or along the routes through the central Asian republics.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that it is possible to meet the essential needs of the fights against narcotics solely through regional cooperation and coordination with international organizations and without financial assistance from big countries. On this basis, Iran is trying to cooperate with Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the narcotics control program of the United Nations in order to eliminate some of the regional problems.

On the other hand, the Isamic Repubic of Iran urges the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] to carry out coordinated policies concerning the fight against narcotics in the region which are due to be discussed and reviewed at the ECO's eighth session next week. Washington's officials know very well that big mafia networks in U.S. cities have easily and without restraint ensnared millions of young people and teenagers in the death trap of addiction. And these officials are incapable of combatting these mafia networks.

Foreign Minister Sends Messages on Bosnian Issue

To UN Secretary General

LD2104104493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati sent a letter today to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali expressing concern about the regrettable and grave situation of the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina and calling for speedy and decisive action by the United Nations to end the present situation in Bosnia.

In part of the letter, he refers to the fact that Muslims and liberal-minded people of the world are sitting in judgement of the reaction of the United Nations and other international organizations to the crimes committed by the Serbs against the defenseless Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He points out: While there is the fear that by massacring the Muslims of Srebrenica, the Serbs are paving the way to further hegemonism and aggression, the United Nations is expected to take the decisive and historic action of lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina and establishing a safe air and land corridor to send all manner of assistance to the government and people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

To ICO Chief

LD2004173593 Tehran IRNA in English 1328 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 20, IRNA—An Iranian representative to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Asghar Manusi today in Jeddah handed over a

message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to OIC Secretary General Hamid al-Gabid.

In his message, Velayati referring to the Serbian genocide of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, regretted that the talks held and decisions taken by the international community has produced no promising results.

The message also reminded OIC members of the heavy responsibility they now shoulder towards innocent Bosnian Muslims.

It called for the lifting of arms embargo against Bosnia, arguing that what the Bosnian Muslims needed most under current critical conditions was the right to defend themselves against assaults and aggressions.

It said that OIC members should actively contribute to establishing of an International War Crimes Tribunal as proposed by the Security Council.

Al-Gabid lauded Iran for its humanitarian aid to the Bosnian Muslims, and called on other Islamic states to help Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said that he would do his best to attract the attention of OIC member states to solving of the Bosnian crisis.

The OIC secretary general said that the next week's meeting of OIC foreign ministers in Karachi, Pakistan, would be a proper opportunity for the organization to take practical decisions in this regard.

Iran-Europe Gas Company Formed

LD1904175393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Iran's National Gas Company and the gas companies of France, Germany, Spain, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia have this month formed a group called Iran-Europe Gas. Iran's National Gas Company today issued a press release today announcing that since European companies are interested in obtaining gas from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iran-Europe Gas group will be embarking on research and surveys of technical, commercial, legal, and financial conditions within the framework of a project for gas supply from Iran.

On the basis of this press release, before the formation of this group, preliminary studies about the various ways of transporting gas from Iran to Europe were carried out and the formation of this economic interest group of Iran-Europe Gas has been set up as a result of these preliminary studies.

Japan, India Warned Against U.S. Pressures

NC2004054093 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Apr 93 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "A Temptation To Repeat U.S. Mistakes?"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The pressure U.S. economic circles and industrial magnates are putting on Washington is spreading and becoming more apparent. They are reprimanding Washington for continuing their former unsuccessful policy. They are clearly stating that because of the confusion reigning in U.S. decisionmaking centers about the Islamic Republic of Iran, the benefits are accruing to others who are strengthening their trade relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This growing objection and recrimination has caused great perplexity in the White House and has put it in a defensive position. The officials in Washington are being criticized for their inimical policy toward Iran and the disarray behind the scenes has misled some Indian and Japanese officials, who have taken some steps against Iran which are to their own detriment.

On what basis do these misguided Japanese and Indian elements—and probably some from another country tomorrow—make such comments that would harm reciprocal relations and what do they expect to gain from the already defeated objectives of the United States?

The fact is that the United States has not gained anything from its hostility toward Iran, and is now enticing others to follow this path. The United States is the number one enemy of our nation and has not left any stone unturned in its animosity and criminal actions against the Iranian nation. [passage omitted]

Japan—in its capacity as an industrial, economic power—is feeling the need to make its debut in the circle of international politics. Will it choose its own path and political criteria independently? Will it keep in mind that the United States, as its political rival, will attempt to influence Japan's long-term interests and will motivate Tokyo to make unwise decisions?

Perhaps it may not be very pleasant for the Tokyo government if its maiden venture into the arena of international politics encounters disillusionment, defeat, and failure. It is for this reason that Tokyo should be advised to make a greater effort to understand current circumstances and to recognize international complexities. They should pay special attention to this point regarding the Islamic world, particularly Iran, and they should not follow prescriptions dictated by Washington, as this path will certainly be one of no return for them.

Regarding India, the recent remarks by the Indian defense minister can be construed as a consequence and effect of the extravagant utterances of U.S. officials. It is amazing that U.S. remarks can have such an effect on an independent country such as India.

It is possible that in India the impression prevails that the vacuum left by the former Soviet Union should be filled by tilting toward Washington. If this erroneous premise is true, its first ill effects will certainly harm India's own independence and credibility. In addition,

experimenting with the errors that others have regretted cannot be considered wise under any kind of logic.

When the pressure to retract its steps and to compensate for its past erroneous policies begins to mount on the White House, others will not be able to follow the same incorrect path. Naturally, the sensible ones will not be tempted to repeat U.S. mistakes regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran.

If this is an accepted principle, it is imperative that the decisionmaking centers of Japan and India should think further so that they may realize the role and the effect of U.S. dollars in motivating their respective officials to make such remarks and then to counteract them.

Habibi on Banks, Credit, Publicity

LD2104230893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Excerpts] At the end of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday night, First Vice President and Government Spokesman Mr. Habibi gave an exclusive interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, in which he elaborated on matters approved by the cabinet on Wednesday afternoon. He said: The procedural regulations for presidential election were reviewed in the light of changes brought about in election procedures and its mechanization, and it was decided that if some parts of the election procedure are carried out as before the regulations in those areas will remain the same.

The government spokesman said when referring to the government program for supporting consumer rights: Taking into consideration the changes in the economic structure, more support for consumer rights by the executive power of the country becomes necessary and the market should not be left to itself in dealing with the consumer. He said: The government is reviewing a bill, seven articles of which have been approved so far. According to the bill, the supplier is required to put necessary and sufficient information on goods offered at the disposal of the consumer and pledge to compensate any damages arising from defective goods.

The first vice president considered the problem of obtaining credit and the issue of releasing goods from customs to be crucial matters. He said: According to the matters approved by the Article 29 Committee, banks are empowered to sell any amount of hard currency, up to $5,000, to any purchaser, on any number of occasions; whereas previously companies and bank customers had to pay up in full in rials [sentence as heard]. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question by the Central News Unit correspondent on the procedure for announcing the governments's stances and decisions for informing the community, the spokesman said: I will continue as the government spokesman, and in the coming weeks I will inform the people about cabinet meetings at the end of each or every other session through interviews with the Central News Unit and IRNA. Mr. Habibi said: I will also have other weekly and fortnightly sessions with the mass media, just as before.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Behind 'Acts of Terrorism'

LD2104160393 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—Outlaws of the Munafiqeen (hypocrites) Khalq [Mojahedin-e Khalq] grouplet and the banned Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) with support from Iraqi Ba'thist forces indulged in acts of terrorism in Iran's western border regions over the past few days.

The flagrant border violations which were brought to the notice of the United Nations secretary general by Iran's permanent envoy earlier this week, entailed a reply from the Iraqi representative, Nazar Hamdun, who in his letter to the U.N. chief admitted that the attacks were launched by the munafiqeen who are active throughout Iraq.

Hamdun timed his statement with the claim broadcast on the Iraq- based munafiqeen television "Face of Resistance" that the grouplet has indulged in terrorist operations in Salehabad, Gilan-e Gharb, Dareh Shahr, Mehran and Dehloran in Bakhtaran Province.

The terrorist grouplet also sent a statement to AGENCE FRANCE PRESS (AFP) in Nicosia, claiming that its armed elements carried out 11 operations against six Iranian provinces on April 8-9. It claimed that 150 Iranian forces were killed or wounded and several military vehicles destroyed during its attacks. The munafiqeen admitted that over the recent weeks they penetrated Iranian soil in Salehabad and fired several RPG-7s before returning to their bases inside Iraq.

In related news, the DPK radio "Komeleh" which also operates from inside Iraqi territory, said on April 1 that its forces attacked military targets in the Kurdish town of Marivan.

Last week also DPK forces infiltrated Iranian soil to attempt attacks on Iranian forces which, however, were foiled by the vigilance of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) who killed three DPK commanders responsible for anti-revolutionary operations at the al-Sulaymaniyah base in northeastern Iraq.

According to figures, between February 15 to 25 this year Iraq violated the ceasefire on 12 occasions through the agency of the munafiqeen grouplet and DPK elements with direct support from the Ba'thist military forces.

Most of the ceasefire violations occured at the border areas of Sardasht, Baneh, Alavan, Marivan, Garmab, Qasr-e Shirin, Khosravi and Jalaleh in Bakhtaran Province.

According to international laws no country should allow the use of its soil for attacks on a neighbouring country. However, in addition to Iraq, France, Germany, Britain

and the United States have become safe havens for Iranian counter-revolutionaries such as the munafiqeen terrorists, in stark violation of known international norms.

Majles Ratifies Maritime Territories Bill

LD2004170593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Excerpts] At today's open session of the Majles, four bills and three draft bills were reviewed and ratified. According to our correspondent, one of the bills ratified in the second round is the bill concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran's maritime territories in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. Article One of this bill states: The Islamic Republic of Iran, apart from jurisdiction over its land, internal waters, and islands in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Sea of Oman, has sovereignty over the extension of the continental shelf from the base line [khat-e mabda'], which is called territorial waters [darya-e sarzamini].

The session also passed the draft bill on a scientific and training agreement between the governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Qatar. [passage omitted]

Majles Official Comments

LD2004163993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] During today's open session, the deputies of the Islamic Majles approved the bill on the maritime territories of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman after a second reading. We would like to ask Mr. Qashqavi, a member of the Majles Foreign Policy Commission, to explain the details of this draft bill.

[begin Qashqavi recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. A particular feature of this bill is that in fact it brings together all the scattered laws we previously had on our maritime areas. A second feature of this bill is that it benefits from all the gains of conventions on the maritime laws and the recognized principles of maritime rights, but within the framework of the IRI's interests, national security, and high interests of the Islamic Republic system. The bill specifies the areas under the sovereignty, supervision, and economic exploitation rights of the IRI in its territorial waters, the continental shelf, and the exclusive economic zone. Although these areas were specified and respected before, the new bill—as I mentioned—brings together all the scattered laws. In particular, it reviews all the recognized principles of the maritime laws within the framework of our interests.

This bill also clarifies the status of the areas beyond our land territory, the internal waters, and the islands in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Sea of Oman. It specifies our boundaries, the legal regime [regim-e hoquqi] ruling over these regions and determines the exceptions to this legal regime. In fact it is a comprehensive bill, on the basis of which we believe that all our maritime zones in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman have been fully and clearly specified. The bill has determined the limit of boundaries; it has raised particular legal features and also the penal and civil jurisdictions that the IRI can implement in this regard and in these regions. All the details have been clearly specified. [end recording]

Presidential Election Law Amendments Approved

LD2104225393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] The cabinet met today, and during the session important domestic and regional events were reviewed. Procedural regulations for the presidential elections law were approved. The regulations were amended because of changes made to the law and the different method used in counting the number of votes.

The draft bill on the consumer protection law was also reviewed and seven of its articles approved.

Chief of Staff Stresses Allegiance to Khamene'i

LD1804123693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Simultaneous with the staging of ceremonies on 29 Farvardin [18 April], Army Day, throughout the country, model units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran today conducted a splendid march at Tehran's Azadi Square, displaying their combat power and defense preparedness. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] Ceremonies honoring 29 Farvardin, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army Day and day for honoring the heroic deeds of the ground forces, began this morning in Azadi Square in the presence of the chief of staff of the Armed Forces [ra'is-e setad-e koll-e niruha-ye mosallah]; chiefs of the the Joint Staff of the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; representatives of the leader in the army and the Guards Corps and commanders of the three arms of the Armed Forces; foreign military attaches and the martyr- nurturing people.

After the national anthem was played and Koranic verses recited, Brigadier [General] Doctor [as heard] Firuzabadi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, spoke in honor and memory of the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution and the imposed war. He said Army Day is a day of for the renewal of allegiances between the Armed Forces; the eminent leader, the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces; and the people. [passage omitted]

He continued his remarks by praising the selflessness and sacrifices of the Armed Forces in the course of eight years of Holy Defense [Iran-Iraq war]. He noted: Army

Day should be the day for understanding the importance of defense in the face of the enemy's plots. Therefore, the Armed Forces should not under any circumstances refrain from raising the strength of the defensive capability and the move toward self sufficiency. He emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces are in a state of full preparedness for obeying the commands of the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. He stressed: Today the nation and the Army are endeavoring along the path of safeguarding the achievements of the Islamic Revolution and the sacred aspirations of the Islamic Republic of Iran under auspices of the velayat-e faqih [guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult].

At the end of his speech, the Chief of Staff command pointed to the successful performance of the Armed Forces in the reconstruction and rebuilding of the country. He noted: In accordance with the command of the eminent leader of the Islamic Revolution, the personnel of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while moving toward self-sufficiency, have played and will continue to play an active role in the reconstruction of the country.

Pakistan

Bhutto Views Current Political Situation

BK2104115993 Islamabad THE NATION in English 21 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad—PPP [Pakistan People's Party] co-chairperson Benazir Bhutto has said that a "genuine" working relationship with the Pakistan Muslim League will only be established when the provincial assemblies and local bodies are dissolved.

This she said while talking to newsmen at the residence of Air Marshal (Retd) [Retired] Ashgar Khan on Tuesday. She also demanded that fresh elections should be held within 90 days.

Answering questions at a press briefing, she said: "we had been assured that (1) assemblies will be dissolved both in the centre and provinces (2) free and fair elections will be held and (3) it shall be done within three months. We have told caretaker Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari that as Democrats, we should ensure elections are held within 90 days." Benazir was "hopeful" and was expecting that the remaining assemblies would be dissolved soon.

The press briefing was arranged after the meeting was held amid reports that cracks were appearing in the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] ranks over the apparent unilateral decision of the PPP to join the interim government.

Benazir Bhutto was very clear in her mind that a working relationship with a faction of the Pakistan Muslim League will only be established when all the PDA demands are met. The delay in the dissolution seems to have created doubts and the newly-formed caretaker setup at the federal level has begun to feel the pressure.

Benazir also made it clear that alongside with the dissolution of provincial assemblies and the local bodies must be dissolved because with the same administration, free and fair nationwide elections are not possible at all.

She conceded that some of "our friends" in the PDA has expressed their anger over the latest situation. "But we have assured them that the PPP maintains the stand of PDA and there has been no change."

Benazir said, "we are not interested in any power struggle of leg-pulling. Pakistan cannot afford the politics of intrigues anymore. I had tried my best to offer a hand of cooperation to Nawaz Sharif both as prime minister and as leader of the opposition but he did not respond. Now when a faction of the PML is ready to work with us, we will definitely attempt to establish a genuine working relationship. I think if this can be achieved it will help us in solving the problems of the people."

"We want democracy, and for democracy we demand the dissolution of provincial assemblies. That is the only way to hold impartial elections because we do want to go back to the people to explain that we wanted a democratic set-up."

To another question about the NDA [National Democratic Alliance], and IJM [Islami Jamhoori Mahaz—Islamic Democratic Front], Benazir's interesting remark was that "we are in contact will all those parties which were with us during the long march and will continue to do so."

To a question, she said that the PDA's stand on the eight amendment is firm and there has been on change in that. "But if we are to have a working relationship with the Muslim League and is opposed to repealing it, then naturally we will have to give a thought as to what would be the compromise in such a situation."

To a question about the formation of the caretaker set-up PPP co- chairperson negotiations with the PML and other parties are continuing. [sentence as published] However, her meaningful comment was that "as soon as the provincial assemblies and local bodies are dissolved, all such issues like the appointment of an independent election commission will be looked into."

To a question, she said that once the nationwide dissolution materialises, "we will go into the government with our PDA allies. We will not forget them. We shall try to seek a mutual strategy with the Muslim League. We do not know about their stand on various issues but we will try to seek a mutual way. Where there will be a difference of opinion, we shall try for a compromised solution."

Benazir said the PDA has its won stance on various issues. "We have our own stance on the joint electorate,

women rights and that how to control the rising inflation. We want to end the deficit financing. We have a manifesto and want to change the system in Pakistan," she added.

Those who attended the meeting were air marshal (Retd Ashgar Khan, Allama Sajid Naqvi, Munir Hussain Gilani, Afzal Khan, Shafqat Mehmood, Afrasiab Khattak, Kabir Ali Wasti, Malik Hakmeen, Khoda-i- Noor, Mehnaz Rafi and others.

Later, talking to newsmen Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Chief Asghar Khan said he has declared a ceasefire vis-a-vis President Ghulam Ishaq Khan because it is the PDA's joint decision to just concentrate on the caretaker government and fresh elections.

Secretary general of the People's Democratic Alliance Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri denied any difference in the PDA and said that no component party was thinking of parting ways.

He said the alliance leaders have been briefed by Benazir Bhutto who has explained the PPP's strategy in the last few days. He said the PDA has taken stock of the prevailing political situation and everybody is in agreement.

Prime Minister Assures Freedom of Press

BK2104143493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, has said his government is fully committed to the freedom of the press in the country and he has taken steps to end discriminatory and intimidatory policies of the previous government. In a message of congratulations to the newly elected office-bearers of the All Pakistan Newspapers Editors, APNE, the prime minister assured his government's full support in their efforts for the freedom of the press in the country.

Denies Former Minister Arrested

BK2104145693 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 21 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] Islamabad (special correspondent)—Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari has said that Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, the former minister of state [for economic affairs], has neither been arrested nor has any case been filed against him. When asked as to what steps the caretaker government was taking regarding the U.S. move to declare Pakistan a terrorist state, the prime minister said he will do something only after knowing the full details of this issue. Answering a question, Mazari said that he is being guided by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in this regard.

Plea for Stay of Assembly Dismissal Order Rejected

BK2104143293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] The full bench of the Lahore High Court has rejected a request by speaker of the former National Assembly for issuing stay order against the dissolution of National Assembly and the dismissal of the cabinet. However, the full bench has admitted a writ petition of the speaker of the former National Assembly against the presidential order for dissolving the National Assembly. After hearing the arguments, the court ordered that since the main petition has been fixed for 3d of May, the court did not feel inclined at this stage to grant a prayer [as heard] for suspension of the president's order of 18th April.

In his petition, the speaker of the dissolved National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub, has questioned the validity of the president's order under Article 58-2B of the Constitution on a number of grounds. The court directed the attorney general to file the written statement within seven days with a copy to the counsel for the petitioner who may file a rejoinder to the written statement within the next three days. The attorney general, Mr. Aziz A. Munshi, raised an objection that the president who has been included in the petition as respondent cannot be impleaded under the Constitution of Pakistan. The counsel for the petitioner, after instructions from the petitioner, deleted the president as the respondent from the proceedings. The full bench of the court consisted of the chief justice, Mian Mahboob Ahmad; Mr. Justice Sardar Mohammad Dogar; Mr. Justice Khalilur Rahman Khan; Mr. Justice Ershad Hassan Khan; and Mr. Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum.

First Frictions Surface in New Goverment

BK2104161693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 21 Apr 93

[By Herve Clerc]

[Text] Islamabad, April 21 (AFP)—Pakistan's newly-formed national union government saw its first wrangles Wednesday between Benazir Bhutto, who wants the immediate dissolution of four provincial assemblies, and the new prime minister, who does not want to move on the matter.

Bhutto, who after three years in the opposition camp has marched firmly back to political center stage, has said that she had set three conditions to support the operation mounted by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan against his former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

They were the dissolution of the National Assembly, decreed Sunday at the same time as Sharif's dismissal, the holding of free and fair elections, in principle set for July 14, and the dissolution of provincial assemblies, which has yet to be carried out.

"Suspicion is too strong but we find they are not moving fast enough," explained a spokesman for Bhutto's leftist Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

According to Bhutto, the dissolution of the provincial assemblies—Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and North-West Frontier Province—is an indispensable condition for holding elections.

All four assemblies are administered by the conservative Pakistan Muslim League (PML), the party which was in power until now, and the polls could be manipulated on a massive scale in a situation where the provincial administrations would be both participants and referees.

The new prime minister, 64-year-old Balkh Sher Mazari, a leading league figure, argues that the disolution of the assemblies is up to the provinces themselves, and not a matter for the central government.

The explanation cuts no ice with the PPP, since any dissolution order must be given by the provincial governors, seen as mere messengers for Islamabad.

In the Punjab, the huge central province now in the hands of Sharif followers, a behind the scenes operation is under way to tilt power into the Mazari camp, possibly short-circuiting the dissolution process demanded by the PPP.

A tussle also appears to be shaping up for the distribution of portfolios in the new government, which Mazari has promised will be formed "very soon."

Informed sources say the next government will consist of 25 to 30 portfolios, of which a third will go to the PPP, a third to the league and a third to groups wanting to join the coalition, such as the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami or the MQM, the party representing the interests of the Mohajirs, Urdu-speaking refugees from India.

The first clash took place over the post of minister of finance, which had been coveted by Hamid Nasir Chattha, a league leader, and which was finally given to Farooq Leghari, one Bhutto's right-hand men.

The battle is still under wraps, as Bhutto and Mazari are committed to putting an end to the "politics of confrontation" which has seen the dissolution of three National Assemblies in Pakistan since 1988.

Ex-Prime Minister Sharif, who Wednesday began his electoral campaign with a train trip across his home state of Punjab, punctuated with rallies, has no such scruples.

He has denounced the president's "egoism" and "bad faith", the futility of the dissolution which, he said, had sent the stock exchange plunging, paralysed business, and destroyed in 48 hours all that his government had achieved in two and a half years.

Spokesman Sees No Change in Foreign Policy

BK2104160593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman stated in Islamabad today that there will basically be no change in Pakistan's foreign policy due to the political change in the country. He said there are some problems in our relations with certain countries and they will receive priority attention. The spokesman reiterated Pakistan's determination to continue efforts to resolve all bilateral disputes with India, especially the Kashmir issue, through talks in accordance with UN resolutions and the Simla accords and on the basis of the peaceful resolution of issues to establish tension-free relations. He expressed the hope that India would reciprocate Pakistan's positive attitude on bilateral relations.

Referring to the recent statements by the Indian foreign minister on the internal changes in Pakistan, the Foreign Office spokesman said that certain words in the Indian minister's statement reflect the minister's thinking. Pakistan has never in the past made any comments on the changes of government in India, and it expects India to pursue the same policy. In reply to a question on Afghanistan, he said the objective of all of Pakistan's efforts is to help Afghan leaders sit together and resolve their problems by themselves. Pakistan's embassy is fulfilling this role.

Sharif Campaigns to 'Tens of Thousands'

BK2204004993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1741 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, April 21 (AFP)—Ousted Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived to a thunderous welcome here Wednesday after trekking through the Punjabi heartland in a whistlestop train tour to mobilise support against a president who dismissed him.

Tens of thousands, organisers said at least 200,000, awaited Sharif in Lahore with signs that read "We love you, we're with you," as the train from Rawalpindi, 270 kilometres (160 miles) to the north, finally pulled into the station here two hours late because crowds held it up along the way.

Thousands of supporters clambered on roofs as they packed every station along the way in an emotional outpouring of support for Sharif, whose 29-month old government was sacked Sunday by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, to cap a three-month power struggle between the two men.

Sharif's voyage to his native Lahore to seek to revive his political fortunes was a repetition of other train trips by Pakistani politicians, such as Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1968 and most recently by Bhutto's daughter Benazir, and invited comparisons from politician travelling with him who said Sharif had drawn larger crowds.

"Are you with me?" Sharif asked mob after mob to responses like "We will never desert you."

"Ishaq Khan is a dog," a crowd estimated at some 5,000 roared at the train station at Rawalpindi at the beginning of the trip.

The 44-year-old businessman turned politician, chided for being a timid speaker during his tenure, attempted a transformation into a populism more often associated with the Bhutto family as he tried to energise himself in addresses to crowds at every station along the route.

He told AFP that he did not need support from either the military or foreign governments as he tried to fight his way back into power by contesting his dimissal in the courts and by his Pakistan Moslem League fighting elections that Ishaq Khan has called for July 14.

"The pressure of the people of Pakistan is more than enough," he said as the train pulled out of the city of Gujarkhan, sweeping from his hair a rose petal the crowd had showered on him.

"The military's role is to stay out of politics which everyone has appreciated," he said. "This is a turning point in the history of this country and democracy for the first time can now take root."

"The armed forces of Pakistan realise this. They are very concious of this. It is a very healthy sign."

Sharif, whose government has attempted to liberalise the economy, said Ishaq Khan's decision to dismiss his government and the National Assembly, sent "the wrong signals" to foreign investors.

But not everybody was happy aboard Sharif's train. An elderly Pashtun tribesman travelling with his wife on the pilgrimage to Mecca complained that he had spent about 125,000 rupees (4,500 dollars) for the whole trip to Saudi Arabia and he still could not travel comfortably.

"In my 50 years I have seen many governments and they have all been crooks," he said, his forehead, calloused from years of hitting it against a praying stone, wrinkling into a frown.

Strike Against President 'Paralyzes' Karachi

BK2204075893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0723 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 22 (AFP)—A nationwide strike call paralysed business and industry here Thursday as merchants small and large closed shop to protest the dismissal of the reformist Nawaz Sharif government.

The shutdown was called for late Wednesday by Mian Habibullah, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

"We are protesting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's action against an elected government," Habibullah said in a statement, as Karachi's business and merchant associations threw their weight behind him.

Business circles said both wholesalers and general merchant groups were participating in the strike along with the All-Pakistan Organisation of Small Traders and Cottage Industry.

However, there was some confusion at the Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE) where low key early morning trading of shares was reported.

A KSE spokesman told AFP a management meeting was in progress to decide whether strike would be observed by the exchange also.

Factories in the main Karachi Industrial Estate were closed while the Ship Breakers Association and the Port Qasim industrial area also observed the strike.

The industrial closure coincided with the formal inauguration here Thursday of a Toyota Motor Company plant, which will provide jobs for some 8,000 Pakistanis including vendors.

The plant to produce 20,000 cars annually with potential to double the production, was contracted by the ousted government, was to have been opened personally by deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. [sentence as received]

The Japanese company has now invited its own President Tatsuro Toyoda to perform the ceremony in which the first Toyota Corolla would roll out.

Sharif had infused confidence in the country's business and industrial sectors with market oriented policies, business representatives said, and his privatisation policy had attracted foreign investors.

His economic reforms had offered sweeping concessions including repatriation of principle investment and dividends.

The four-day old caretaker government has said it will maintain the privatization and deregulation trend, but Sharif said in the Punjab city of Lahore Thursday that the dismissal of his government had "sent the wrong signals" to foreign investors.

The 44-year-old businessman turned politician has vowed to fight his ouster.

Officials Stress Military Impartiality in Crisis

BK2204104993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 Apr 93 pp 1, 12

[Text] Rawalpindi, April 21—Reacting to reports regarding different perceptions within the armed forces over the dissolution of the National Assembly and claims by some political circles that the armed forces were divided, the senior ISPR [Inter Services Public Relations] official sources said here Wednesday night there was complete unity of command in the country's armed forces.

"The country's armed forces are not for or against the individuals. They stand for institutions", the sources said while answering queries from the MUSLIM and added "it is not army's job to term the action taken by the president under the constitution as illegal or legal."

The sources noted that the oath-taking ceremony of the caretaker PM [prime minister] and his two ministers held at Aiwan-e-Sadr [Presidential Palace] on April 18 the COAS [chief of army staff] had forthrightly said 'it

does not fall in the purview of the armed forces to pass judgement on the president's actions in the exercise of its constitutional powers'.

The sources said "we have eyes to see and ears to hear but we keep aloof from politics." During many occasions in the past, they said, it was apprehended that the armed forces will interfere in the political system but time and again, it has been proved that the armed forces wish to remain out of politics and only attend to their professional duties.

The officials said that such reports have come to the notice of the COAS this morning, they said, the chief remained composed and unruffled.

The officials pointed out that a meeting of corps commanders was held on April 4 followed by the meetings of the promotion board in which the chief had discussed the prevailing situation with the corps commanders. They said during their meetings matters pertaining to the internal and external security were discussed at length and consensus was reached upon.

The officials noted that it was an unfortunate trend that people conveniently start raising fingers at the armed forces and identify them with individuals. They said the impartiality of the armed forces could well be gauged from the fact that sensing the serious crisis, the COAS had used his good offices in defusing the crises prior to the PM's address on the national hookup. The chief, they said, had met both the president and the PM and proposed to them an amicable solution but unfortunately political developments continued unabatedly.

Meanwhile in his capacity as supreme commander of the armed forces, President Ghulam Ishaq is said to have taken note of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his younger brother Shahbaz Sharif's public utterances that tend to kick up controversy on the issue of the senior appointments in the army.

Knowledgable government sources said the president reportedly had consultations in this regard with the caretaker prime minister and the COAS.

Military quarters however, expressed their concern over statements by some politicians recently ousted from power regarding senior appointments in armed forces. They said the appointment of COAS is the discretionary power of the president and criticism of his exercise of this power amounts to attempting to divide the national security apparatus. They said that such public expressions of opinion about military matters and men are strongly disapproved of by the armed forces who wish to remain out of politics and attend only to professional matters.

Obviously this reaction stems from the two separate statements issued by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his younger brother Mian Shahbaz Sharif over the appointment of new COAS Gen Waheed Akhtar. While Nawaz Sharif denied that he any difference with the president over the appointment of Gen Abdul Waheed Mian Shahbaz Sharif said in a statement in Lahore that there was a difference between the president and the prime minister over the appointment of the COAS. He disclosed in his statement that the former PM wanted Gen Rahamdil Bhatti as the COAS but the president was for Gen Farakh. It may be recalled that after the sudden demise of the former COAS it took the president about a week to appoint the new COAS in exercise of his discretionary power under A-243 Clause 2 (C). It was reportedly reported in the press that the president was put under tremendous pressure over the appointment of the PM's nominee for the COAS. During a five days before the appointment of the new COAS, Chaudhary Nisar Ali met the president twice, Mian Shahbaz Sharif once and the PM had two lengthly meetings with the president over this issue. While the presidency kept the lid on the whole issue, some of the elements of PM camp were publicly airing differences in the corridors of the National Assembly which was then in session.

Political Leaders Meet Khan, Mazari

BK2104153493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] A group of eight former MNA's [members of National Assembly] and senators from Punjab called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President's House] today. They were Mr. Akbari Ali Bhatti, Mian Abdul Khalid, Mian Mohammad Shafi, Mr. Gul Hamid Khan Rokadi, Chaudhary Abdus Sattar, Mr. Asghar Ali Shah, Malik Ghulam Mohammad, Nur Rabbani Khar, and Senator Tariq Chaudhary.

Another delegation of eight former MNA's from Federally Administered Tribal Areas, FATA, called on the president today. They comprised Malik Mohammad Ajmal Khan, Haji Baroch Khan, Syed Yusuf Hussain, (Malik Bin Kon), Haji Shafi Jan, Haji Lal Kareem, Haji Mohammad Ayubaqivi, and Mohammad Aslam Khan. They briefed the president about their assessement of the current political situation in the country and their perception of the people's aspiration with regard to various national issues. The president assured them that the general elections would be held on scheduled date as announced and all measures would be taken to ensure their fairness and impartiality.

The spiritual leader of (Hoze) and prominent politician, Senator Shah Mardan Shah Pir Pagaro, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at the Aiwan-i-Sadar today and remained with him for some time. During the meeting, prevailing political situation in the country with particular reference to forthcoming general elections came under discussion.

Several political leaders called on the caretaker prime minister, Mr. Balkh Sher Mazari, in Islamabad today. The prime minister called on Pir Sahab Pagara in

Islamabad. They exchanged views on the general political situation in the country.

The Balochistan governor, Sardar Gul Mohammad Khan Jogezai, also called on the prime minister. Chairman of Senate Standing Committee on Information Senator Syed Fasi Iqbal was also present during the meeting.

The Sindh governor, Mr. Mahmud A. Haroon, also called on Mir Balkh Sher Mazari. He discussed with the prime minister matters of national importance.

A JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam] delegation led by Maulana Fazlur Rahman called on the prime minister and discussed the matters relating to the present political situation.

A delegation of Jamiat-i-ulema-i-Pakistan, Noorani group, headed by Allama Hamid Syed Qazmi, Ex-MNA, called on the prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, and discussed with him the current political situation.

Leader of the Anjuman-i-Sipah-i-Sahaba Maulana Azam Tariq also called on the prime minister. He remained with him for some time and discussed the situation in the country.

The prime minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, called on the caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, in Islamabad today. The situation in the Indian-held Kashmir and the caretaker government's policy on the issue were discussed. Expressing serious concern over the escalation and atrocities by the Indian forces in the occupied valley, the prime minister expressed the hope that the international community would take notice of the great human rights violations in the Indian-held Kashmir. He reiterated his government's stand on Kashmir which is based on the right of self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He informed the Azad Kashmir prime minister that his government's policy was based on a national consensus. The prime minister declared that the government's efforts would be directed at a just and durable solution of the Kashmir problem through peaceful negotiation.

Paper Welcomes Dismissal of Sharif Government

BK2104112393 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu 20 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Many a Big Name Does Perish"]

[Text] Ending an era of despotism and atrocities, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has now announced the dismissal of Nawaz Sharif government. For a long time, political and nonpolitical forces throughout the country were knocking at the doors of the president to get rid of the business-minded rulers. But the former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, himself managed to strike the last nail in his coffin by making disparaging remarks on the high office of the president through his speech broadcast on Saturday. It was an example of the process of retribution which the powers that be forgot in a frenzy of wealth, power, and authority. In that same arrogance they did not even desist from playing with the life of the country's able army chief. Finally, Brigadier Imtiaz from the office of the chief of the intelligence branch, became the cause for the downfall of Nawaz Sharif. This so-called patriotic officer, in every step, was the cause for the engineering of the crisis in the country's politics, which resulted in a threat to the country's democratic foundations. A reign of terror was loosed on political activists for having contact with the People's Party, the thought of which itself makes the soul tremble. Having picked a confrontation with the late Jam Sadiq Ali, he hatched a conspiracy to wipe out the country's only poltical force, the Al Zulfiqar organization, by implicating it in the massacre of innocent people in the Shahbandar episode. The same misdemeanor was repeated in the killing of innoncent Pakistanis in the Singapore plane hijacking case.

Newspapers and journalists were made the target of oppression. By imposing a total ban on advertisements in the daily HAIDER under an official order over the past three years, an attempt was made to financially destroy this eminent organization. But, in doing all this, this particular clique showed it forgot that God provides those whom He wants to survive with fortitude to live under extremely poor conditions and face difficulties. Today, we can say with pride that despite all the worst treatment meted out by the anti-national elements, God has given us the courage and strength to fulfill the responsibility of presenting the truth before the admirers of the dictators and the ill-mannered rulers who are mad with power. The columns of the daily HAIDER over the past three years bear testimony to the fact that at the time, when 99 percent of the so-called journalists compromised the honor of the pen with this characterless clique, the daily HAIDER has been continuing as usual and upholding the dignity of the pen. It did not submit to any pressure, greed, or intimidation. Today, by the grace of God, the clique of conspirators and plunderers is coming close to its end. But, irrespective of all these evil deeds, the worst crime committed by this clique is the homicide of the country's Army chief. The entire country is eagerly awaiting the day when this conspiracy will be exposed and the cuprits will meet their end.

No-Confidence Motion Against Punjab Chief Minister

BK2204023693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] The Punjab Assembly in Lahore yesterday evening accepted a no-confidence motion against Ghulam Haider Wyne, the leader of the house and chief minister, for discussion. The no- confidence motion was moved by Mian Manzur Ahmad Mohan with the support of 139 members. According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, 58 members walked out of the house when the resolution on no-confidence was

adopted by the house. Assembly Speaker Manzur Ahmad Watto has fixed Sunday, 25 April, for a debate and voting on the no-confidence motion. The house session was later adjourned till Sunday afternoon. Earlier, the speaker announced the chairmen's panel comprising Farhat Aziz Mazari, Chaudhary Talib Hussain, Sheikh Suhail Akbar, and Begum Raj Hamid Gill.

Paper Views Defense Cooperation With PRC

BK2104124593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 21 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Pak-China Defence Cooperation"]

[Text] "A delegation of defence officials has left Islamabad for Beijing on Sunday to discuss ways and means of enhancing defence cooperation between the two countries. In particular the two sides will discuss the progress made in the field of co-production of a basic jet trainer in Pakistan called K-8 at the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) Kamra. The project was first undertaken in 1986 with Chinese assistance and has now entered the production stage. Certain vital components of the aircraft are now being produced at Kamra Complex and after the final prototype of the jet trainer is assembled, Pakistan hopefully will undertake indigenous manufacture of the aircraft. For the long-term are also plans to undertake joint promotion of sales and marketing of this aircraft.

"Self-reliance in defence production has assumed critical significance for Pakistan because of a number of reasons. First, defence supplies from the US and the West have become unreliable and erratic because of global emphasis on disarmament and a declared policy of advanced countries to limit defence and even economic programmes. Washington has refused to deliver even those 71 F-16s for which Pakistan has already made payment.

"France, another country with which we have had defence purchase agreements in the past, is also dragging its feet on the proposed agreement to supply Mirage-20000 aircraft as a substitute for the US F-16s. Perhaps Paris wants to angle the deal as a bait to persuade Pakistan to enter into an agreement with it for much larger defence purchases including those pieces of equipment for which we really have not much need. All available evidence suggests that the mirage deal with France will also not go through.

"Second, the defense equipment which third world countries purchase from abroad is in many cases old, obsolete and outdated. They are seldom given the latest state of the art technology. This makes their defence capability not only second rate but also heavily dependent upon suppliers states for maintenance and spare parts.

"An answer to these problems lies in promoting indigenous defence production through cooperation with friendly countries. In this context Pakistan, China and Iran are ideally well placed to enter into some sort of defence production agreement. This will also strengthen the concept of regional security involving the three countries. The three countries have been traditional allies with trouble-free borders and no territorial disputes or any substantive basis of conflict between them. If Pak-China relations have withstood the test of time that of Pakistan and Iran have also survived such upheavals as the revolution in Iran, the Iran-Iraq war and the Gulf war. Iran and China also share common perceptions of most of the global and regional issues and are perfectly well placed for mutual cooperation.

"It is hoped that the visit of Pak defence team to China will not only strengthen the existing defence ties between the two countries but also expand them further and lay a firm basis for co-production in defence production technology."

Secretary Comments on Release of 109 Arabs

BK2104131593 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 21 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan government has released 109 out of total 180 arabs recently arrested in Peshawar, whereas twelve Arabs have been externed from Pakistan.

This was disclosed by Jamshed Burki, federal secretary for interior while talking to newsmen in Islamabad on Tuesday. Jamshed Burki while emphasising on the externment said that we are not expelling them. To expel means to send these Arabs back to the country of their origin.

He further maintained that not a single Arab will be allowed to go Afhanistan via Paksitan. The twelve Arabs who are asked to leave Pakistan include one each from Libya, Egypt, Iraq, Algeria and Saudi Arabia, whereas five from Philippines and two from Turkey, he added.

The interior secretary when asked about the rest of Arabs lodged in Gorgathri Lock Up in Peshawar said that detailed study of the individual would be made while dealing their cases. These Arabs were arrested after federal government received complaints from some friendly Arab countries.

Burki when asked to comment over Indian allegation of providing shelter to Memon brothers allegedly involve in Bombay bomb blast, said information about Memon brothers from Indian government was not received so far. He on behalf of the new prime minister welcomed any information regarding Memon brothers from India.

Kashmiri Official Warns of Threat From India

BK2104161393 Hong Kong AFP in English 1604 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 21 (AFP)—The head of the government in the Pakistani zone of Kashmir warned Wednesday against what he called a threat of attack from India. Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's reported directive to military commanders for operational preparedness should not be taken lightly, Premier Abdul Qayyum Khan told a news conference here.

He said the internal crisis in Pakistan following Sunday's dissolution of the National Assembly by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan could "tempt" India into launching an attack in Kashmir.

Qayyum claimed that India had massed sufficient troops to make an attack on the Pakistan-controlled northern third of Kashmir.

Rao said Tuesday that although India believed in resolving its disputes through peaceful means the country's defence services should maintain their highest level of operational preparedness.

Qayyum met with caretaker Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari earlier in the day to discuss the new government's policy on Kashmir. On Tuesday, he had a meeting with deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

An official statement said Mazari told him that the government would promote a solution of the Kashmir problem in line with 1949 United Nations Security Council resolutions envisaging a plebiscite for Kashmiris to choose union with Pakistan or India. The resolutions are considered outdated by India which is troubled by ongoing Muslim insurgency in its part of Kashmir where thousands of people have died over the past three years.

Pakistan and India have fought wars in 1948 and 1965 over the disputed Himalayan region since the 1947 partition of the sub- continent.

Pakistan To Join UN Factfinding Mission to Bosnia

BK2204075093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] The UN Security Council's fact-finding mission is to leave for Bosnia-Herzegovina tomorrow where it will assess the crisis and suggest measures to overcome it. This was stated by the current Security Council president, Pakistan's Jamshed Marker, in New York. The mission includes Pakistan, France, Hungary, New Zealand, France [repeat "France" as heard] and Venezuela.